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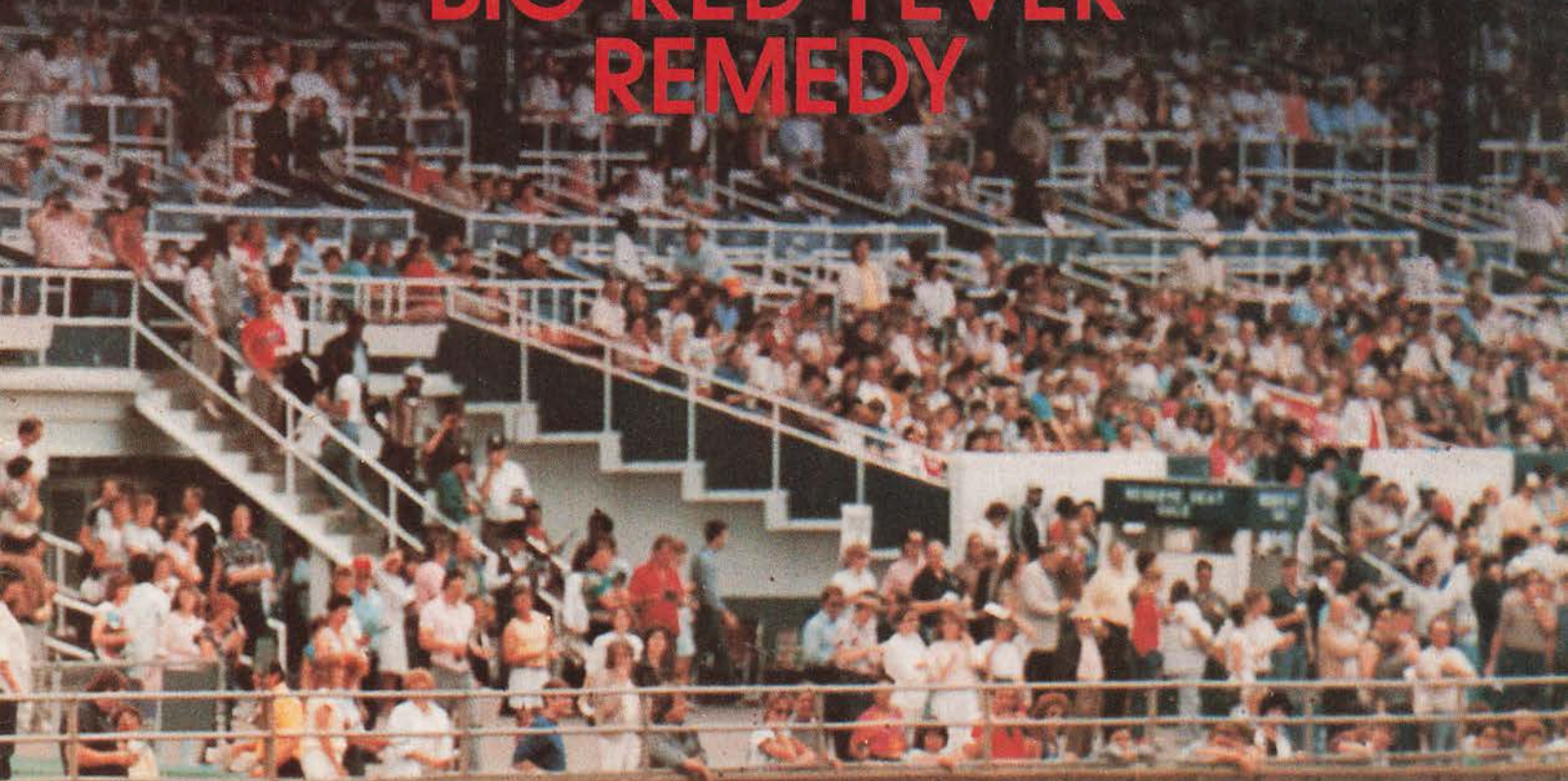
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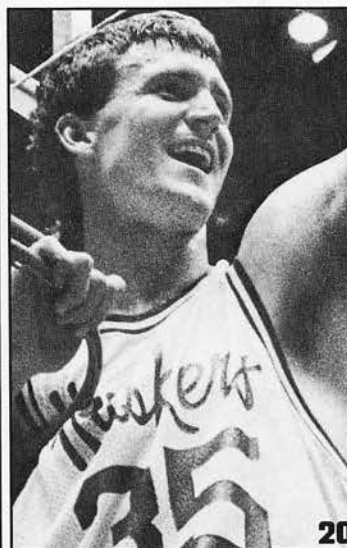


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On The Cover

Nebraska's football roster is loaded with young players who came to Lincoln to win a national title. Now talents like LeRoy Etienne (cover) are ready to take matters into their own hands, starting this spring. John Bills captured this look of Etienne's, which should give Okies and Buffs and all others an idea of what's in store this fall.

In The Next Issue

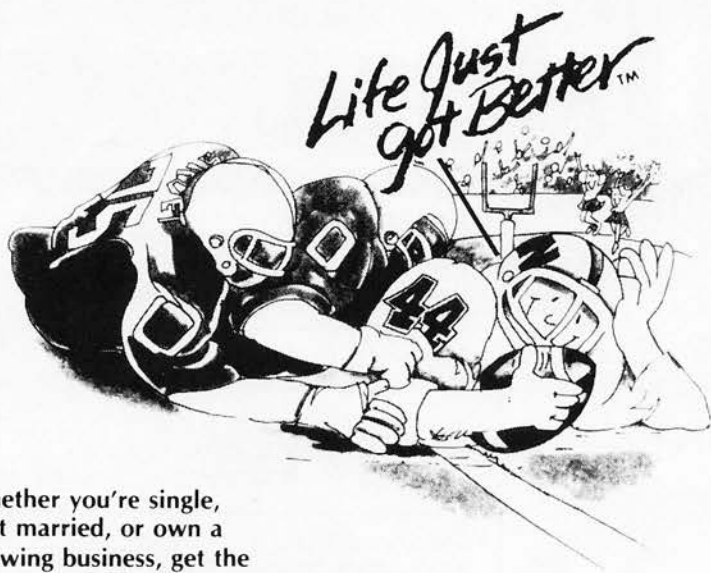
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Letters

LUCKY OSBORNE

Dear Huskers:

There is no doubt in my mind that Tom Osborne would be in boiling hot water right now if he had not won the Sugar Bowl and got those two top high school recruits this past spring.

Just look at his record in bowl games and you see that he was only 3-5 before the 1987 Sugar Bowl. If he had lost that one, he would have been 3-6, which is the same record that Fred Akers had at Texas in his last nine bowl games. And look what happened to Akers.

And his record against Oklahoma is still horrible. That's where the recruiting thing saved him. By getting Leodis Flowers and Mickey Joseph from OU, that's about the same thing as beating the Sooners on the football field.

If Osborne had not won the Sugar Bowl and those kids had signed with Oklahoma, especially Flowers, 1987 might have been a make-or-break year for Osborne. As it is, he's still got to do something with those recruits. What good does it do to beat Oklahoma in recruiting if you can't beat them on the football field? The pressure may be off, but in a way it's still on.

Danny Morrison
Omaha, Nebraska

Danny: That's an interesting point about what might have been. Just to clarify one thing, though, Osborne's overall bowl record prior to the 1987 Sugar Bowl was 7-6. You were quite accurate, on the other hand, that in his previous eight bowl tries Nebraska posted only a 3-5 record.

NCAA FINALLY SUCCEEDS

Dear Huskers:

I can't believe it. The NCAA has finally done something right, what with the SMU probation and all. I got the impression that the NCAA actually thought through their penalty. They finally made a serious effort to try and improve college football and I think they sent a serious message to the rest of the country.

It seems amazing that the NCAA would spend any time at all with meaningless problems like the ticket thing that happened last fall. And it's refreshing to hear that *Sports Illustrated* has finally awakened from its stupor and started looking into real outlaw programs, like Miami. And what about Texas A&M? Shouldn't the NCAA take a look at that program after they sign all those high school

blue-chip running backs all in the same year?

Pete Castleman
Grand Island, Nebraska

RECRUITING

Dear Huskers:

Thank you, thank you, thank you. This year's football recruiting was the best thing to happen to Nebraska in years. I cannot express how happy I am that Barry Switzer came up empty handed on quarterbacks this year, with Nebraska beating him toe-to-toe for Mickey Joseph and Oklahoma State stealing away the Kenny Ford kid out of Texas. Justice has been served.

Congratulations, again, to the Husker coaching staff for their hard work which paid off with another great effort.

Sally Page
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Huskers:

Being a recruiting fanatic, I took special pride in the Huskers' success this past year, and I would like to point out that Nebraska should really have its 1987 recruits rated in the top two or three in the country. A couple of the recruiting newsletter services rated Nebraska somewhere in the Top 10, behind teams like Notre Dame and Texas A&M, Pittsburgh and Florida. But keep in mind that these teams all gave out more scholarships than Nebraska; some the full 30.

What the recruiting newsletters don't account for is the Husker walk-on program, which will produce another three-four players that would be rated highly compared to high school players.

I don't think it is out of line to suggest that Nebraska will eventually have as good a spring recruiting as anybody in the country. The key will be the quality and quantity of walk-on players from the recent past who develop into productive players.

Robert Dorsey
Richardson, Texas

Dear Huskers:

All I have to say about Mark Blodgett (high school lineman who committed to Nebraska but signed with Oklahoma) is that he got what he deserved: four long years with Barry Switzer.

Marc Mercer
Kansas City, Missouri

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DEADLY PLAYOFF

Dear Huskers:

The sad truth of the matter is that a national college football playoff would be the kiss of death for Nebraska as long as we don't have a domed stadium. You just can't ask those players and coaches to try and play good football in freezing rain and snow. They could never practice in Lincoln if you have playoff games in December. Now a bowl game is differ-

ent because you can leave early and practice in warmer weather.

The only way a playoff will go through is if the southern schools get together and conspire to have it done because they know it would hurt schools up here.

Things are bad enough with the economy and all. We sure don't need some silly playoff.

Darren Schaub
Omaha, Nebraska

FUTURE SCHEDULES

Dear Huskers:

The 1987 football schedule looks like a classic with UCLA, Arizona State and South Carolina. Are there any other super big games in the next few years — like with Penn State or Alabama?

Sandy Kellerman
Ames, Iowa

Sandy: UCLA and Arizona State, of course, will swap home sites in 1988, with the Sun Devils coming to Lincoln and the Bruins hosting Nebraska in Pasadena. Otherwise, '88 is a yawner with Utah State and Nevada-Las Vegas rounding out the non-conference schedule.

It doesn't get much more exciting in the near future. The 1989 non-conference slate is All-Patsy, featuring Northern Illinois, Utah, Minnesota and Oregon State. And 1990 is almost the same, except that Baylor will replace Utah. The next non-league slate with some punch will be in 1991 when Washington and Arizona will play the Huskers.

CAGER RELOCATION

Dear Huskers:

I look for great things from the basketball team and Coach Dan Nee in the very near future, and the NIT bid is just one example of how the program has already started to go to the top. I definitely see the day in the not too distant future when all Nebraska sports (not just football) will be renowned across the country.

However, there is one obstacle that currently holds back the basketball program, and I think it was a grievous oversight on the part of the athletic department. The Bob Devaney Sports Center should be located directly on the UNL campus. It is too inconveniently located.

I would suggest the university build a new basketball arena on campus.

And also try this: let the football team use the Bob Devaney Center as its indoor practice facility.

This would be a much wiser expenditure of school money.

William Sizemore
Ashland, Nebraska

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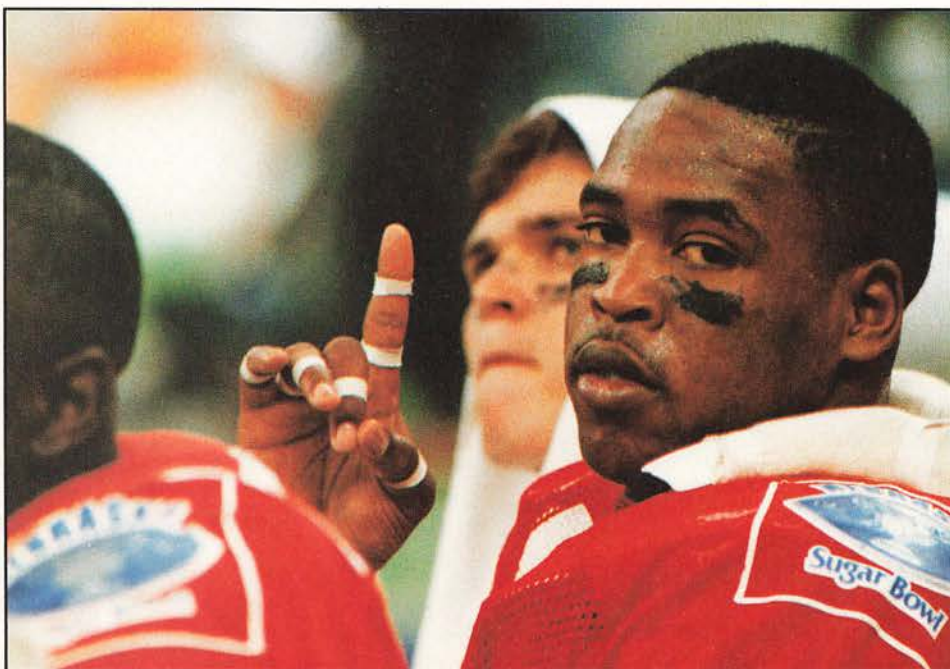
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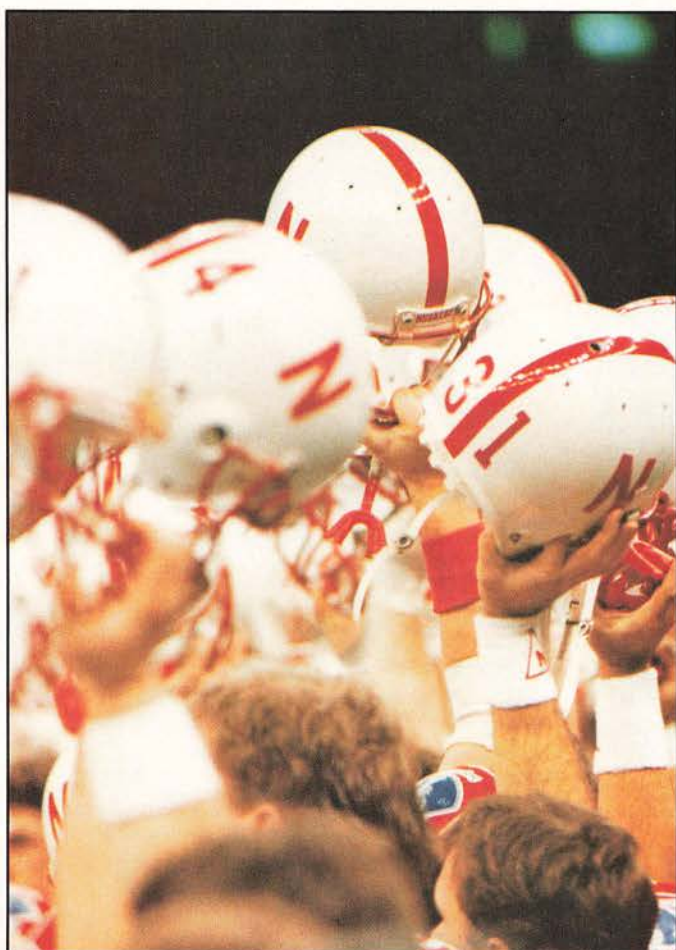
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HUSKERS OPEN SPRING PRACTICE WITH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AS GOAL



Nebraska short on returning starters, but long on young talent as 20 days of spring drills begin March 30.

By Mark Owens

All-Big Eight defensive end Broderick "Sandman" Thomas said before the Sugar Bowl that Nebraska was embarking on "Hell Raisin' Tour '87" as the Huskers set their sights on a national crown. My word! What has Nebraska football come to? A "Hell Raisin' Tour?" But with the kind of talent the Huskers return in 1987 — faint hearts beware — Thomas may be right.

Nebraska still appears to be a little short on depth, and a few key injuries next fall could raise a stink, instead.

The returning starters look solid with the imposing Thomas leading the way. "Sandman," who is listed at 6-foot-2, 235 pounds is Nebraska's only returning All-Big Eight performer on defense and, as a sophomore, appears to have an excellent shot at national honors for the next two years.

Concerning publicity, Thomas is the Black Shirts' lone returning celebrity from 1986 as a slew of honored Huskers were graduated.

On the offensive side, I-back Keith Jones also won all-conference honors and is the league's leading ball carrier from last season when he gained 830 yards on 161 carries for a 5.2 average. He should start spring ball at 100 percent after a series of nagging injuries slowed him at the end of his junior campaign.

Although he didn't make All-Big Eight, sophomore quarterback Steve Taylor showed streaky brilliance last year. He was named *Sports Illustrated* and CNN Offensive Player of the Week as he ran and passed the Huskers to a season-opening win over bowl-bound Florida State. He was also named the Sugar Bowl MVP and he promises to bring strong leadership to the offensive huddle. For the first time since Turner Gill in 1983, the Huskers appear set at quarterback for two years.

Offensive guard John McCormick was named honorable mention All-American as Nebraska's steadiest hoss during his junior season. Barring a tragedy, he will be only the third, three-year offensive line starter at Nebraska in the last 14 years. He will be a big, big factor in UNL's rushing success.

Split end Rodd Smith garnered second-team All-Big Eight accolades and led the nation in punt returns with an 18.9 average as a junior. Tight end Todd Millikan also was named to the league's second unit as he led the Huskers with four TD receptions as a sophomore. Wingback Dana Brinson, who snared a team-high 14 passes in '86, also returns. That gives Nebraska its top three receivers, who caught between them 37 passes, more than half of the entire team total. With Taylor at the helm and his best receivers back, the passing game appears to be much improved (it would be premature to say Nebraska will be an aerial power considering the Huskers' modest 43 percent completion rate last year).

But there are some big holes to be filled.

Gone from the 10-2 Sugar Bowl Champs of 1986 are consensus All-American noseguard Danny Noonan, third-team All-American offensive tackle Tom Welter, honorable mention A-A offensive linemen Stan Parker and Rob Maggard, plus All-Big Eight performers Marc Munford (linebacker) and Chris Spachman (defensive tackle). Although he didn't make many all-star lists, placekicker Dale Klein provided two years of consistent booting before his eligibility expired last season.

Four of last year's regulars in the offensive line are gone, as are both line-

backers (the other being senior Kevin Parsons).

Also gone is receivers coach Gene Huey who left in January to become assistant head coach and offensive coordinator at Wyoming after 10 years as a UNL assistant. Ron Brown from Brown University was hired during the heat of recruiting season to fill that position and appears to have great depth and talent at his disposal.

Looking ahead to spring drills, Brown's receivers will be catching passes from some solid QBs. Taylor will be joined by junior Clete Blakeman, who completed over 50 percent of his passes while playing in every game last year. He started for the injured Taylor against Kansas and had a pinpoint day (eight of 12 passes for 97 yards). Not Taylor's equal on the option run, Blakeman is still a confidence-building backup.

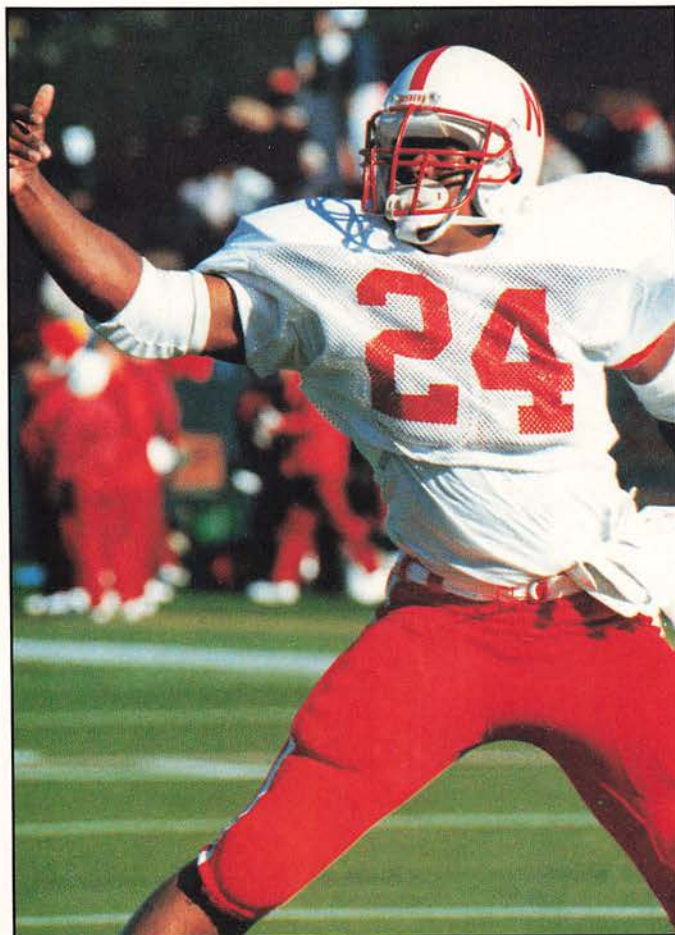
Beyond those two, quarterback is a toss up because of off-season changes. Former signal callers McCathorn Clayton and Wendell Wooten have been switched to the defensive secondary in an effort to take advantage of their athletic ability somewhere. While freshmen and walkons will battle for the third spot

this spring, indications are that celebrated high school recruit Mickey Joseph out of Louisiana will assume the No. 3 slot next fall.

As in the case of several other positions, quarterback borders on merely good to great. Taylor's the key. He was Nebraska's second leading rusher last year with 537 yards and a 4.1 average, but he also hurled the ball at a rather unglamorous 42 percent completion clip. A true sophomore last fall, Taylor should only improve with the maturation process.

At the I-back position, it should be an interesting battle, according to running back coach Frank Solich, as the Huskers have five players with good ability, led by Jones.

He will be pushed by Tyreese Knox, who was switched from fullback at mid-season, and Jon Kelley, who was listed last summer with Jones as the co-alternate before Doug Dubose was injured. Kelley overcame early-season injuries himself and finished with a flurry. They will be joined by true freshman Terry Rodgers, who saw considerable playing time early in his rookie season, and red-shirt freshman Ken Clark, who spent 1986 running on the scout team.



Dante Wiley served his apprenticeship last season and is ready to make his mark at linebacker.



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At fullback, junior Micah Heibel will be the front runner although a fierce battle for the top spot is expected. He'll get the early nod because of his strong blocking ability and steady running; he gained 302 yards on the ground last year.

Overall, Nebraska is blessed with tremendous experience with its running backs. The Huskers rushed for 3,360 yards during the 1986 regular season and 83 percent of those yards will return next fall.

In the offensive line, eight seniors will be lost from the top two units, but the talent returning is outstanding if not experienced.

Milt Tenopir, assistant coach working with the offensive line, sees a lot of athletic ability in the current front-runners with the potential to be quite good. Expectations are high although only McCormick is a returning starter.

Overall, the 1986 offense showed signs of brilliance in hot-and-cold streaks. Having averaged over 36 points and 400 yards per game in total offense, the unit returns six full or part-time starters, not including the kicking department.

Going into spring drills, it appears untested Chris Drennan and Dave Cheloha will battle for placement duties in the tough job of filling the record-setting Klein's void.

On defense, only four starters return, but the available talent appears to be more than capable of filling the void.

In the line, sophomore Lawrence Pete appears to have the inside track on replacing all-everything nose guard Danny Noonan. Pete will be flanked by tackles Neil Smith and Lee Jones, who were both outstanding in the Sugar Bowl. Jones logged some good playing time last year as a junior and Smith served as an all-purpose backup, mostly behind senior Chris Spachman.

With that trio, it appears the 1987 Husker defensive line could possess the best foot speed of any Black Shirt unit in recent memory.

Thomas, of course, will anchor the left end post and should prove to be a dominant force. The right end job will be up for grabs between Jeff Jamrog and John Marco.

One concern about defensive end is the tendency of teams in 1986 to run their plays away from Thomas' side. To solve this problem, it will be critical for an opposite side end to come forward to provide balance. That's also true at linebacker.

To take full advantage of Thomas' impact, a pair of mobile linebackers could force opposing offenses to stop cheating away from the Huskers' outspoken defensive end. At the strong-

side backer slot, fast-finishing LeRoy Etienne will be expected to take charge after a busy '86 season when he handled most backup chores behind Munford and Parson. The weak-side position appears to be a dogfight between Steve Forch and Dante Wiley. Only last spring, Forch was listed No. 1 at this position as Munford rehabilitated a knee. But a shoulder separation cost Forch his entire 1986 season and the two-year letter winner is expected to have a major impact.

Challenging him will be the talented but relatively inexperienced Wiley, who made his mark in '86 as a mad-man on special teams.

In the secondary, two starters return: strong safety Brian Washington and right cornerback Charles Fryar. Enthusiasm abounds in the defensive

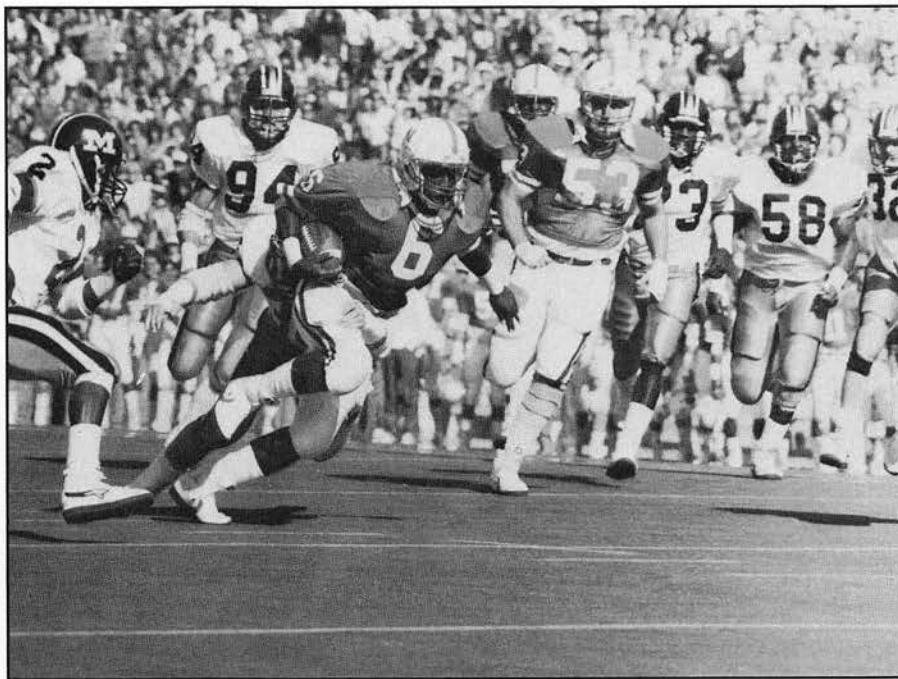
again after punting for an average of just under 40 yards last year.

Nebraska also returns some outstanding returners on special teams. Smith and Brinson should again prove to be the best one-two punch in college ball at retrieving punts. And with the abundance of speedy backs, kickoff returns should be equally dangerous.

The Huskers appear loaded to raise a few eyebrows, or worse.

OFFENSE

Depending on how Steve Taylor's passing improves and how mean the green offensive line can become, the Husker offense looks to teeter on the edge of greatness.



Keith Jones (6) will have the edge at I-back, but he'll also have stiff competition.

backfield because all of the probable starters were either starters or saw action at least 40 percent of the time. At left corner, John Custard returns after starting two games in 1986, and he will be pushed by transplanted quarterback Clayton, who will start spring drills in the No. 2 slot.

Mark Blazek appears to have the inside track at free safety, followed closely by the other former signal caller Wooten.

Last but not least is the secondary's jack-of-all-trades, junior college transfer Tim Jackson, who has the size and speed to play either safety spot as well as cornerback.

The final link on defense will be punter John Kroeker, who returns

Quarterback — Position Rating: A-

For the second year in a row the Huskers endured a perplexing passing offense, barely improving from a 38 percent completion average in 1985 to 43 percent in 1986. But Taylor shines as a workhorse runner, which more than makes up for his passing deficiencies.

Key Losses: None, other than the movement of backups McCathorn Clayton and Wendell Wooten to the defensive secondary. No graduating seniors.

Challengers: Taylor (5-foot-11, 195 with 4.61 speed) is clearly No. 1 because of his speed, but junior Blake-man (6-1, 190) has the better passing arm, hitting over 50 percent last year.

Expect Taylor to break the school single-season rushing record for quarterbacks before his career is over.

Strengths: Experience, leadership, running ability.

Weakness: Passing, which could improve with practice.

I-Back — Position Rating: B+

Depth is outstanding here with as many as five players fighting it out. Expect a lot of contact work this spring and some close evaluation by Husker coaches as they look for the dominant back.

Key Losses: None.

Challengers: Junior Keith Jones (5-10, 190 with 4.33 speed) and sophomore Tyreese Knox (5-10, 215) have good game experience under their

same player. Look for the fullback to control Nebraska's offensive success. If a dangerous runner develops here, the I-back and quarterback will find their running easier.

Key Loss: Senior Ken Kaelin, leading NU fullback in 1986 with 380 yards rushing and 5.6 average per carry.

Challengers: Junior Micah Heibel (6-2, 220) is the front runner because of his performance on the field as a powerful runner in short-yardage situations and as a strong blocker. He rushed for 302 yards in 1986 as he played in every game, but his longest run was only 23 yards. Coffeyville (Kansas) juco transfer Bryan Carpenter (5-10, 200) is a stark contrast with 4.4 speed and tremendous acceleration. However, in the wishbone

This is Nebraska's mystery position because the Husker wingback spot could skyrocket to an "A" or slump to a "C" very quickly. If everyone stays healthy, Nebraska will score plenty of points from from this slot.

Key Loss: None by graduation, but junior Von Sheppard is still recovering from a knee injury sustained in the Sugar Bowl. He is definitely out of spring competition and his fall activity is uncertain.

Challengers: Sophomore Dana Brinson (5-9, 170 with 4.39 speed), was one of the nation's best punt returners in 1986 and led Nebraska in receiving with 14 catches for a 14.9 average and one touchdown. Rushing the ball, he averaged 7.7 yards per carry and had a long gain of 63 yards against Missouri. Redshirt freshman Richard Bell has tremendous potential and showed it in 1985 as he caught 10 passes for a 26.1 average and three touchdowns for the JV team. He's got more size (6-1, 190 pounds) than Brinson, and both have outstanding athletic ability. Junior Hendley Hawkins may also compete here, but he has the skills to play split end, too.

Strengths: Speed, experience, versatility, explosiveness.

Weaknesses: Depth if Sheppard is not healthy next fall, plus inconsistency.

Split End — Position Rating: B+

Nebraska enjoys a combination of experience and youth here which should ensure a solid corps of wide outs. Expect new receivers coach Ron Brown to nurse the best out of his players with his open invitation to all comers to try for the No. 1 spot.

Key Loss: Senior Robb Schnitzler, part-time starter and 1985 Big Eight punt return champion.

Challengers: Junior Rod Smith (6-2, 195 with 4.72 speed) led the nation in punt returns (18.9 average per return) last year and was the team's second-leading receiver with 12 catches for a 17.3 average. Definitely a big-play player. Also fitting that mold is true freshman Morgan Gregory (6-0, 180) who caught 16 passes for a 21-yard average and 67-yard long gain for the JV team last fall. He was shuttled up to the varsity for three games and should add an exciting dimension. Sophomore Jason Gamble (5-11, 170 with 4.59 speed), on the other hand, has plenty of varsity experience, including eight catches in '86 for a 13.9 average. Forced to sit out 1985 because of a knee injury, Gamble was a dangerous receiver as a true freshman in 1984 when he caught seven passes for almost a 20-yard average. Multi-talented Hendley Hawkins, who has also played quarterback and wingback at UNL, will be given a shot



Tyreese Knox hopes for more opportunities like the one he had against Mizzou last fall.

belts and Jon Kelley (6-1, 205), a junior, will be very much in the picture. Jones rates as the early favorite, but coaches expect a lot from this position and competition will be furious. Freshman Terry Rodgers (5-7, 165) performed well for a rookie, even though he was forced along quickly because of early-season injuries to other backs. Redshirt sophomore Ken Clark (227 yards rushing on the 1985 JV team) has tons of ability and will also get a look.

Strengths: Depth, speed.

Weakness: Inconsistency.

Fullback — Position Rating: B

Nebraska has both speed and power at this position but not in the

formation at CJC, he either carried the ball or simply faked up the middle; he'll have to block better before starting at Nebraska. Redshirt sophomore Sam Schmidt has the ability to be a fine player because of his great size, strength and aggressiveness. The list goes on — sophomore Doug Dalton (5-9, 220) saw some limited varsity action in '86, Barry Kitrell ran for 107 yards in his only JV game, Mark Schellen has good speed and David Clare is a tough runner with good initial quickness and football smarts.

Strength: Depth.

Weaknesses: Inexperience, lack of versatility.

Wingback — Position Rating: B+

at split end.

Strengths: Experience, explosiveness.

Weakness: Inconsistency. Beyond Smith, this position is unpredictable because of Gregory's youth and Gamble's history of injuries.

Tight End — Position Rating: A-

It's loaded here and will be very competitive for the top stop. There's enough depth at tight end so that occasional injuries should have little effect on the quality of play.

Key Loss: Senior Mark Diaz played in eight games last season, though he was generally listed behind the returning players on the depth chart.

Challengers: Junior Tom Banderas (6-3, 240 with 4.93 speed) was the pre-season starter but missed five games with a pulled hamstring and knee strain. Still, he finished 1986 with six catches for 70 yards. Sophomore Todd Millikan (6-3, 230 with 4.93 speed) filled in expertly and eventually grabbed 11 passes for 230 yards and four touchdowns. He was named second-team All-Big Eight behind Oklahoma All-American Keith Jackson. Willie Griffin (6-4, 240 with 4.8 speed) may be the best athlete of the three, but suffered some early injuries and finished with only three receptions.

Strengths: Depth, experience, consistency.

Weakness: Lack of explosiveness.

Left Tackle — Position Rating: B-

New faces are everywhere, and although the physical talent to excel is there, it's almost exclusively unproven talent.

Key Losses: Senior starter Rob Maggard, an honorable mention All-American, plus Keven Lightner, who was switched to right tackle.

Challengers: Bob Sledge (6-2, 265) lettered as a backup in 1986 and appears to have the inside track for No. 1 thanks to some extremely hard work during the off-season. Redshirt sophomore Bill Bobbora (6-3, 270), recruited in 1985 as a defensive lineman out of Amarillo, Texas, was moved to offensive guard and now will be given a shot at tackle. Coaches agree he has a chance to be good. Junior walkon Derrick Green (6-0, 280) and Jim Ernest will also fight it out for playing time.

Strengths: Depth, attitude.

Weakness: Inexperience.

Left Guard — Position Rating: A-

The Huskers appear to be rock-solid here for 1987 and years ahead. Fans who complained about the offensive line being below the usual Nebraska standards last season can look here to find stars of the future.

Key Loss: Senior starter Stan Parker, who was second-team All-Big Eight

and honorable mention All-American.

Challengers: Redshirt sophomore Andy Keeler (6-3, 265) and true freshman Jake Young (6-5, 250) both have a great shot at being No. 1 here. Keeler gained valuable playing time in 1986 when he held the No. 2 spot on the depth chart. Young lettered as a freshman (the first rookie lineman to do so in modern school history) and has the ability to grow into a great, great player. In fact, he may be used at other positions, and coaches feel comfortable his performance would still be strong. One key to Young's success, though, is to improve his strength. An invaluable handy man will be John Nelson (6-2, 270), who can play either guard or tackle.

Strengths: Technique, intensity,

pounds. Last spring he showed remarkable improvement by leapfrogging from No. 4 to No. 2 on the depth chart at center. Providing competition will be talented walkon Jeff Anderson (6-4, 260) and redshirt sophomore Chris O'Gara (6-5, 240), who holds the school record in the 40-yard dash for centers (4.97). His obstacle has been putting on the needed bulk to play center in the Big Eight against a barrage of burly nose guards.

Strength: Physical ability.

Weakness: Inexperience.

Right Guard — Position Rating: A-

Here is another blend of youngsters and veterans that should make right guard a high point for Nebraska.

Key Losses: Senior backups Mike Hoefler and Ron Galois.

Challengers: Junior John McCormick



Rod Smith (88) is back as one of the most dangerous kick returners in the nation.

depth.

Weaknesses: Inexperience and depth if injuries force Young and Nelson to be juggled among other positions.

Center — Position Rating: B-

This position is always the most demanding at Nebraska, and this season is no different as the two top players from 1986 were seniors. Junior letterman John Nichols (6-2, 265) appears to lead the center candidates who must make up for inexperience with a maniacal effort.

Key Losses: Senior starter Mark Cooper and senior backup Jeff Sellentin.

Challengers: Nichols' potential is outstanding. He bench presses over 430

(6-2, 265), a two-year starter, was Nebraska's steadiest offensive lineman last year and appears to be headed for an all-star finish. He'll carry the leadership load in the trenches, and indications are he is revved up to push his teammates to the top. Redshirt sophomore John Roschal (6-2, 265) looms as another prize in the line. He was a heralded high school recruit out of Houston two years ago and was also pursued by Alabama, Oklahoma and Arkansas. He's got a tremendous football disposition and is a punishing player. He had an outstanding year on the scout team where varsity defenders of last fall never did handle him. Versatile John

Nelson may also see action at right guard.

Strengths: Experience, technique, aggressiveness.

Weakness: Depth.

Right Tackle — Position Rating: B +

A pattern continues: look for tremendous potential here but also watch out for inexperience after the frontliners.

Key Losses: Senior Tom Welter, who was consensus All-Big Eight, plus senior backup Brad Johnson.

Challengers: Junior Keven Lightner (6-2, 285) has gone all-out to improve his already outstanding athletic skills. He's a strong one-on-one player who has run the 40 in under five seconds. To increase his agility and footwork, Lightner played racquetball regularly during the off-season. Support is the concern at right tackle. Junior Corey Bill Hudson (6-3, 265) has gotten a lot stronger and bigger in an effort to see more playing time. There will be a logjam behind Lightner, and versatile John Nelson could be part of it. A trio of true freshmen has potential to break from the pack. Tom Punt (6-8, 250), Doug Glaser (6-7, 290) and Jim Wanek (6-2, 240) will have opportunities to get an early jump on a varsity career.

Strengths: Excellent front-line players, physical tools.

Weaknesses: Depth, inexperience.

Placekicking — Position Rating: C +

Anytime a kicker like Dale Klein exhausts his eligibility, it's reasonable to expect a drop off and, realistically, that looks to be the case here. Leading candidate should be Chris Drennan, who was a 1985 scholarship signee after hitting seven of nine field goals (two over 50 yards) as a prep senior. Strong competition will come from Craig Schnitzler and Dave Cheloha.

DEFENSE

The Black Shirts may technically have fewer returning starters (four) than the offense, but the results could be equally as dominating. The key will be how well the defensive line's highly touted replacements can fill some big holes.

Left Tackle — Position Rating: A-

It's a one-man show, no questions asked. Injuries could devastate this position unless some young players come to the front with backup support.

Key Loss: Senior Chris Spachman, who was an All-Big Eight selection and three-year letter winner.

Challengers: Junior Neil Smith (6-6, 250) has the most athletic ability by a bunch. A two-year letterman, he played often in '86 as he backed up both tackle spots. Among interior

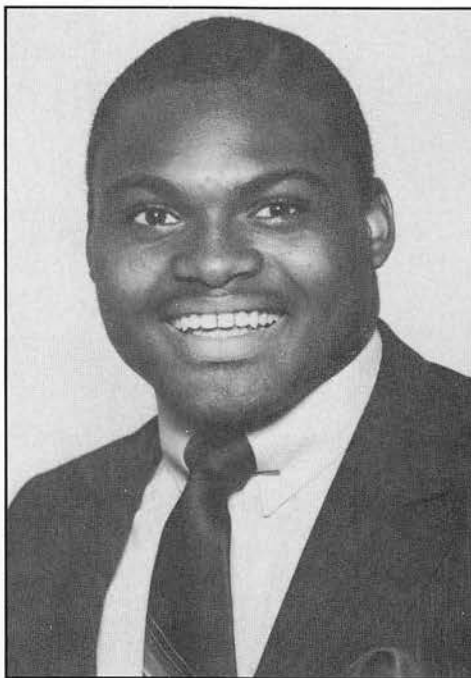
linemen, he was second only to All-American Danny Noonan in total tackles. Smith has been timed at 4.67 in the 40-yard dash. A ferocious pass rusher. Reserves will be dangerously inexperienced. The versatile young players include Greg Ching (6-9, 275), Ray Valladao (6-3, 255), Kurt Skradis (6-3, 260) and true freshman Paul Brungardt (6-7, 230). All have good ability, but none have varsity experience.

Strengths: Leadership, speed, aggressiveness.

Weaknesses: Inexperienced reserves, lack of depth.

Nose Guard — Position Rating: B +

Developing depth will also be a concern here although the starting job appears to be locked up and in good



Neil Smith

hands. Otherwise, the experience just isn't there.

Key Loss: Senior Danny Noonan, a consensus All-American.

Challengers: None will realistically threaten sophomore Lawrence Pete (6-2, 265), who understudied for Noonan and looks to continue Nebraska's recent tradition of standout nose guards. Holding down the No. 2 spot on the depth chart in 1986, Pete registered 25 total tackles and played in every game, especially in short-yardage situations. Over the past year, Pete has conditioned himself down from 280 pounds and by losing that baby fat has increased his speed. Nebraska coaches will be pressing for a backup to take charge and demand

more playing time. Currently, it looks to be a free-for-all between sophomore Sean Putnam (6-3, 255), redshirt freshman Kent Wells (6-3, 280) and walkon Mike Murray (5-11, 240), who was the second leading tackler (46 stops) for the 1986 JV team. Wells in particular has the most potential for contributing soon because of his outstanding athletic ability. He will have to improve on his strength, though, and adjust quickly to a position he has never played before (he was recruited as a defensive tackle in 1985).

Strength: Dominant starter.

Weaknesses: Lack of depth, inexperience.

Right Tackle — Position Rating: B

Finally, competition will be keen and depth should be sound as everyone returns from last year.

Key Losses: None.

Challengers: Juniors Lee Jones (6-1, 250) and Tim Rother (6-6, 270) will duke it out for the starting spot. Jones started all but one game in 1986 and has breath-taking speed for an interior lineman (4.7). He finished the year with 36 total tackles. Rother made 15 stops. Versatile Ray Valladao will probably be tried at both tackle slots and provide backup relief.

Strengths: Speed, size, aggressiveness.

Weakness: Depth. If one of the key players is hurt, the rest of the pack is made up mostly of walkons.

Weak-Side Linebacker —

Position Rating: B +

Don't bother looking for the 1986 stats to find the names of the candidates at this position. Neither of the top returning players were household names, but that doesn't mean they aren't solid players. This could be Nebraska's fastest corps of linebackers ever.

Key Loss: Senior Marc Munford, who was consensus All-Big Eight and a three-year starter.

Challengers: Senior Steve Forch figured to be Munford's replacement in 1986 had the all-star defenseman not responded to knee surgery. As it was, Forch was sidelined in '86 by a shoulder operation. He's a two-year letterman with 4.78 speed and a 400-pound bench press. His competition will come from sophomore Dante Wiley (6-2, 230) who is recognized by Husker coaches as one of the most gifted athletes on the team. He runs a 4.7 and has played almost every position on the field during his college career. One reason he may sneak up on people is that he originally signed as a *Parade* All-American with Pitt before transferring to Lincoln. The Wiley-Forch battle for starting honors

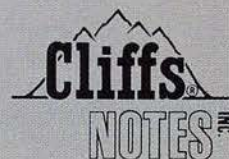
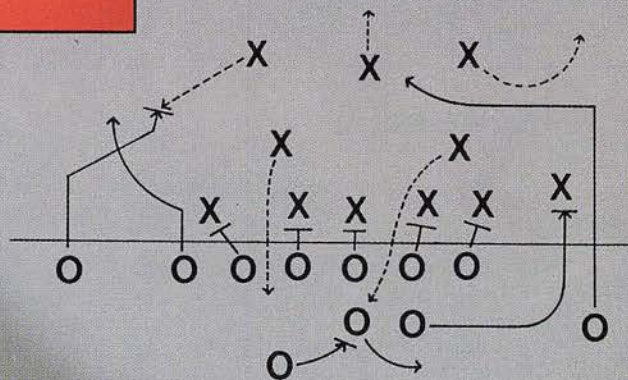
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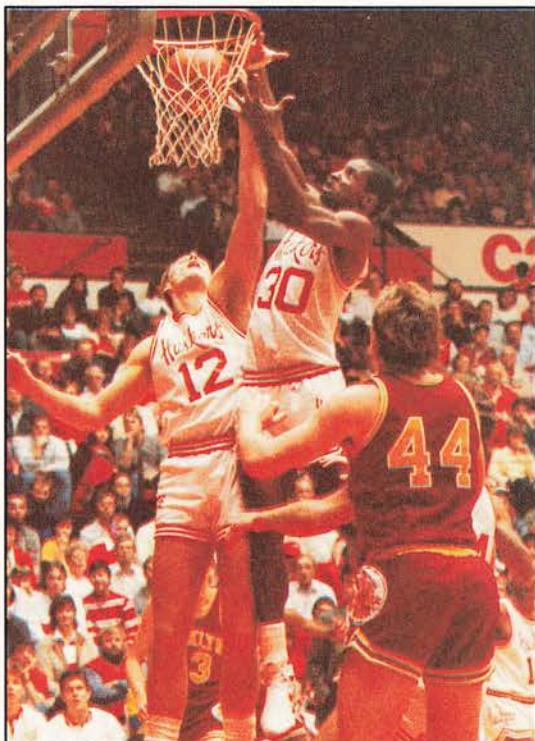
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By Mike Babcock

PLENTY OF 'HONORS' TO IN FIRST HI BASKETBALL

For a few minutes, let's imagine that an audience of 11,165 settles into its seats at the Bob Devaney Sports Center arena for the first annual, unofficial *Huskers Illustrated* basketball awards ceremony — 11,165 because that's what the Cornhuskers drew, on the average, for home games during the regular season. Nebraska has averaged more than that only twice in its history.

In 14 games, the Cornhuskers attracted a total of 156,310 fans, who consumed a lot of Runzas, nachos, hotdogs — the best in the Big Eight — and Cokes, and generally made life miserable for Nebraska's opponents.

Ah, these fans, I love 'em.

Anyway, let's imagine, too, that large spotlights, strategically placed in the south parking lot, pivot, sending waves of light across the sky, like a grand opening or a Hollywood premier.

The guests, decked out in their finest scarlet and cream, have arrived in red limousines, while the Cornhusker marching band plays "There Is No Place Like Nebraska."

Let's imagine...

So we're in the arena now. The lights dim. The master of ceremonies — it looks like Don Gill, the Cornhuskers' public address announcer — strides across a temporary stage. He, and it appears to be Nancy Williams the basketball secretary, will hand out the awards...they're sort of like Oscars; we'll call 'em Huskers.

These are special because they're the first ever given. And remember, this is intended to be all in good fun.

First, ladies and gentlemen, we'd like to introduce the honored guests.

From Los Angeles, Anthony Bailous...from Muncie, Indiana, Henry Buchanan...also from Muncie, Brian Carr...from Washington, D.C., Bernard Day...from Grant, Nebraska, Bill Jackman...from Beatrice, Nebraska, Mike Martz...from Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, Keith Neubert...from Lancaster, Ohio, Beau Reid...from Kendallville, Indiana, Jeff Releweg...from Omaha, Joel Sealer...from Ryswijk, Netherlands, Richard Van Poelgeest...from Chicago, Illinois, Derrick Vick.

There they are, the 1986-87 Nebraska basketball team.

Now, the envelope, please...

The audience waits in anticipation as the envelope is torn open.

Outstanding Defensive Player Award — Day, a selection affirmed by Nebraska's first-year Head Coach Danny Nee.

According to Nee, the 6-foot-4 Day is the Cornhuskers' best defender, given a reasonable match-up, man-to-man.

Most Improved Player Award — Buchanan, a transfer from Hutchinson, Kansas, Community College. He began the year as a reserve, but became a starter for the final 10 regular-season games.

"I wouldn't trade him for anybody in the league. He's a winner," Nee said. The 6-0 junior "has such determination and mental toughness, especially at the end of games. He's a tough cookie. He finds ways to win."

That was illustrated at the end of the Cornhuskers' final regular-season game against Kansas in the Sports Center. With the score tied at 81 in



GO AROUND CEREMONIES

overtime and approximately seven seconds left, Buchanan drove to the basket and passed to Vick, who hit a short shot, with one second remaining, for an 83-81 victory.

Neubert and Jackman also received serious consideration for the award as the most improved Cornhusker.

Shortest Nickname Award — Buchanan, who's known to his coaches and teammates as "T." Why? Because "T" is his middle initial. It's all very logical.

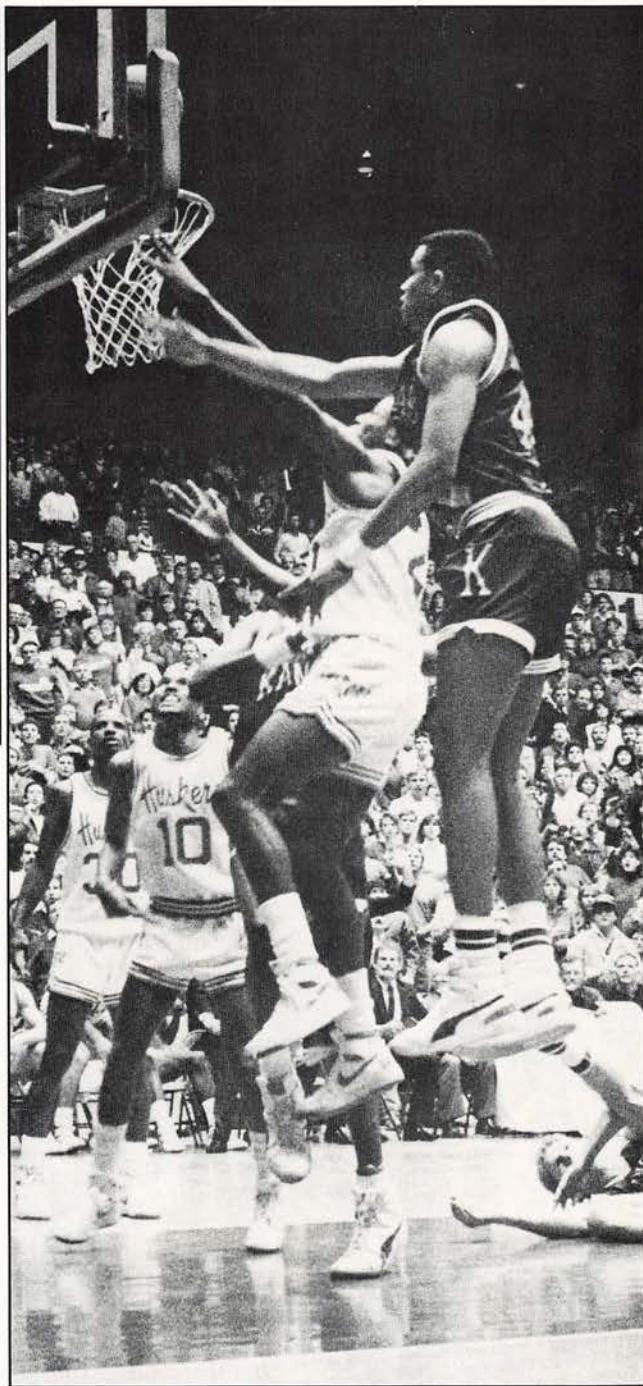
Outstanding Foreign Player Award — Van Poelgeest, who happens to be Nebraska's only foreign player. But Nee and his assistants are working to recruit some more. Van Poelgeest also receives the award as the **Cornhuskers' Outstanding Freshman**, since he's the only one not being redshirted.

He earned some consideration for **Most Improved**, too. Nee has great expectations for the 6-9, 220-pounder.

Reid, the son of Nebraska assistant Arden Reid, was a freshman, but he redshirted, so he'll be eligible for that freshman award again next year.

Patience or Wait'll Next Year Award

Some of the agony and the ecstasy of '86-87 — Bernard Day and Van Poelgeest go for a rebound; (far left), Danny Nee is on the verge of ejection at OU and (middle) busy coaching, and (right), Derrick Vick hits winning shot against KU.



— Reid, Eric Johnson, a transfer from Baylor, and Rodney Curtis, all of whom sat out this season.

Most Mispronounced Name Award — Rekeweg, in a close vote with Van Poelgeest. Everyone wants to put a "g" sound at the end, but it's RECK-away. The junior college transfer from the College of Southern Idaho got off to a slow start because of a hernia operation.

He'll get his chance to prove what he can do next season.

Most Physical Player Award — Neubert, who "plays extremely hard

and physical," Nee said prior to the Big Eight post-season tournament. "I think a kid like that is of tremendous value because we're not a physical team."

Everyone likes Neubert, according to Nee. "He's got big shoulders, a good grade-point average, and he's from Fort Atkinson (Wisconsin), which everybody thinks is somewhere in Nebraska, just west of Scottsbluff.

The Most Physical Player Award will henceforth be known as a "Neubie."

Most Consistently Quotable Corn-



husker Award — Carr. His locker is readily identifiable after a game. It's the one surrounded by reporters, pads and pens poised, tape recorders running.

Sixth-Man Award — Bailous, who began the season as a starter and finished it coming off the bench. Even so, he remained one of the leading scorers on the team throughout the season.

Bailous, an outstanding long jumper, was the team's most versatile

athlete.

Senior Citizen Award — Buchanan, again. He spent four years in the military and will turn 26 on May 4.

"He'll be collecting social security by the time he's out of here," according to Nee. "He tells me that every Monday, with his old bones. He's old, about 32."

Perry Mason Award — Martz, an excellent student who plans to pursue a career in law.

Most Valuable Alum Award —

Jackman, who played the Big Eight season as a graduate student in finance. Though technically an alum, his contributions were allowed under NCAA rules.

Mr. Clutch Award — Carr, whose two free throws with two seconds remaining sent the Oklahoma State game at Gallagher Hall in Stillwater into overtime.

Vick also received consideration for hitting the shot that beat Kansas. Vick had some problems hitting layups, but



Academic All-Big Eight picks Brian Carr (left) and Bill Jackman cut down the net after a stunning upset of Kansas.

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when the Cornhuskers needed two points to upset the Jayhawks, Vick came through. When he saw Buchanan driving toward the basket, "I knew it was over."

And, oh yes, Buchanan would have been an excellent choice for this award. When the going got tough, Buchanan got going.

Cy Young Award—Hey, wait a minute. Doesn't this have something to do with baseball? Sealer gets the award. He's a potential major league draft

choice as a left-handed pitcher, according to Cornhusker baseball Coach John Sanders.

Mr. Congeniality Award—Nee receives this one, presented to him by special guest presenter J.C. Leimbach, the Big Eight official who presented him with three technical fouls, and an automatic disqualification, in barely a minute, early in the second half of the Cornhuskers' 133-97 loss to Oklahoma in Norman.

Nee earned two technical fouls in Nebraska's first game with Creighton.

Turn About Is Fair Play Award—The entire Nebraska team gets this one. The Cornhuskers lost to Creighton 78-66 in the third game of the season, at Civic Auditorium in Omaha, then came back to defeat the Bluejays at the Devaney Sports Center, 70-65 in overtime. They lost to Kansas State 114-82, then beat the Wildcats 78-76. They lost to Iowa State 91-75, then beat the Cyclones 66-65. And they lost to Kansas 86-65, only to come back and upset the Jayhawks 83-81 in overtime.

Cardiac Kids Award—Again, the entire team, which henceforth will be remembered as the Cardiac Cornhuskers. Consider the basis for this distinction. During the regular season, Nebraska was involved in nine games that were decided by five points or less. The Cornhuskers won eight of them: Southern Illinois, 87-85; Wyoming, 62-61; Creighton, 70-65 (ot); Colorado, 68-65; Iowa State, 66-65; Kansas State, 78-76; Oklahoma State, 79-77 (ot); Kansas, 83-81 (ot). The only loss was at Texas A&M, 66-64.

He Oughta Be In Pictures or, **The Hollywood Look-A-Like Award**—Presented to the opponent who most looks like a movie star, it goes to Cal-Irvine guard Scott Brooks, who scored 36 points against the Cornhuskers in the season-opener at Irvine. Brooks bears a striking resemblance to Martin Sheen's actor-son Emilio Estevez. Brooks and Estevez may, in fact, be one and the same person.

Where was Estevez on the night Nebraska played Cal-Irvine, anyway? He apparently doesn't have a good alibi.

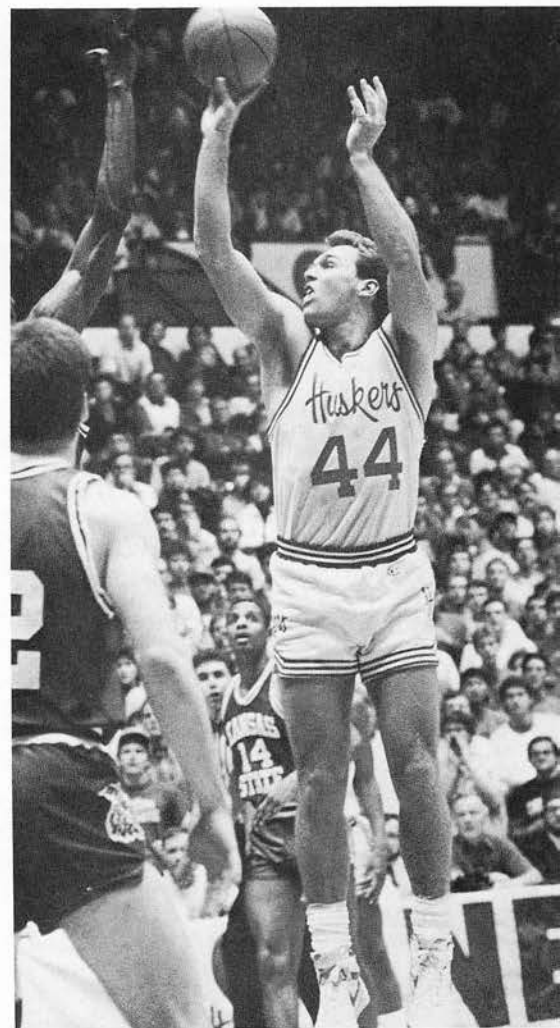
The runnerup in this category is Jack Nicholson . . . or rather, Oklahoma Coach Billy Tubbs. Didn't Tubbs play the liberal lawyer in the movie "Easy Rider"? Wasn't he also in the movie "Terms of Endearment"?

Well, probably not. A recent survey of college basketball coaches who do a lot of yelling at officials included Tubbs at No. 3, behind Alabama's Wimp Sanderson and Ohio State's Gary Williams.

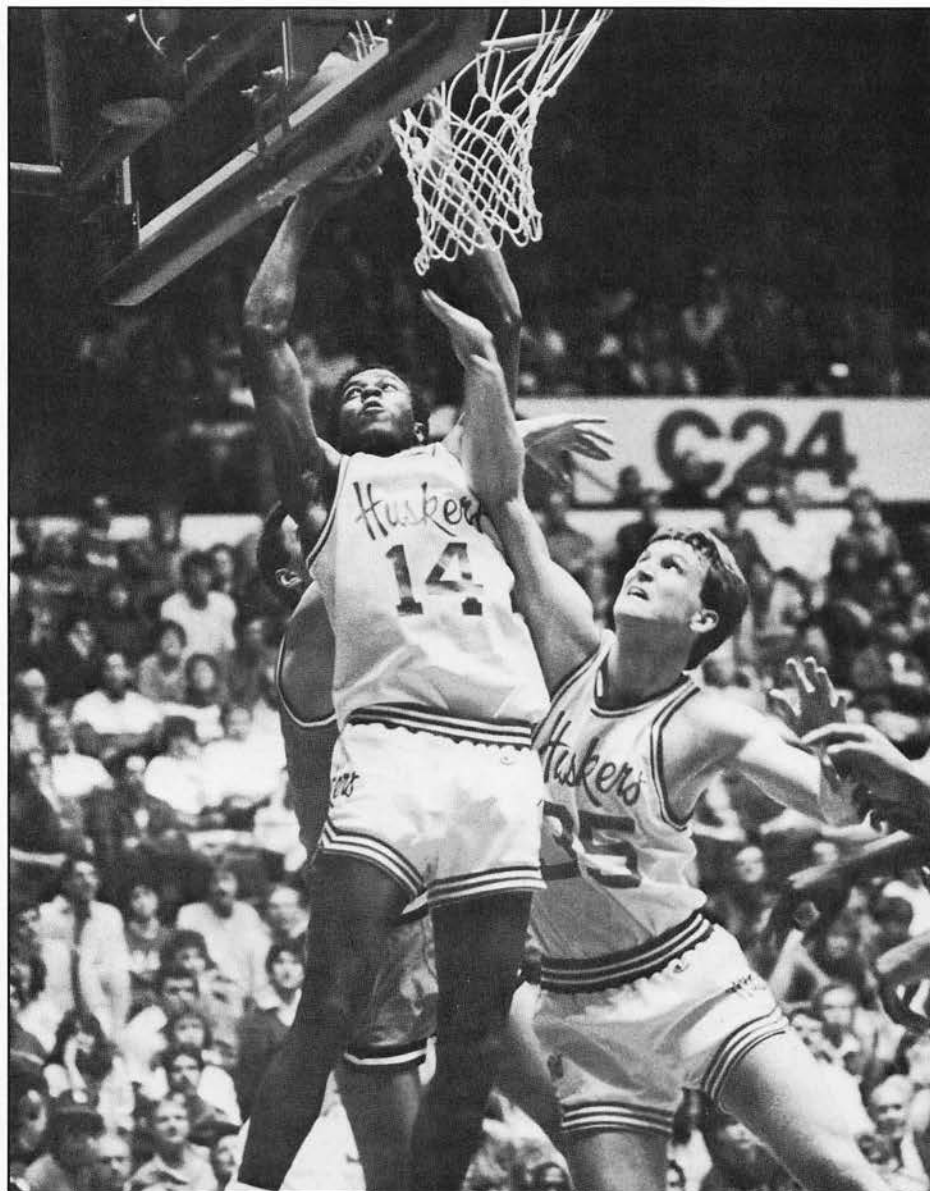
Tubbs rarely endears himself to officials or the opposition. After Oklahoma beat Nebraska in Lincoln, 80-66, Tubbs said it would be "a long time before he (Nee) out-coaches me. I never try to out-coach anybody. I just try to kick their butt."

Tubbs apparently had nothing to say after Oklahoma failed to kick Kansas State's butt in the regular-season finale, which proves if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.

It Sounds Like He Oughta Be In Pictures Award—Cornhusker junior Derrick Vick. Doesn't that sound like the name of a movie star? Derrick Vick...or maybe, Vick Derrick. The junior from Chicago played more than one starring role this season, the most notable being when he put in the shot with one second left to beat Kansas in overtime.



Keith Neubert puts one up against K-State.



Anthony Bailous (14) and Bill Jackman (35) battle an OSU Cowboy for a rebound.

Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is Award — Shared by Iowa State and Kansas State. The Cyclones used up the final 11 seconds of its 66-65 loss to Nebraska, in the Cornhuskers' forecourt, without getting off a shot. "They thought they were ahead. That's what I believe," Nebraska's Henry Buchanan said, trying to explain the inexplicable. Kansas State used up 25 of the final 26 seconds before Steve Henson's desperation shot missed in the Wildcats' 78-76 loss to Nebraska at the Devaney Sports Center.

Insight Of The Year Award — Orr. After the 66-65 loss at Nebraska, he said: "We must've lost track of the time."

It's Never Too Late Award — Martz, who hit a three-point goal at the halftime buzzer of Nebraska's 68-65 victory over Colorado in Boulder. As it turns out, those three points were the margin of victory. "I saw somebody underneath the basket, and I was going to pass it. Then I heard Coach yell, 'Shoot!' So I just shot it," Martz said afterward.

Fan Quote Of The Year Award — "Moe (Iba) had the same offense." Nebraska went nearly four minutes before scoring in its home opener with Oregon. During that stretch, the Cornhuskers turned the ball over three times and missed four shots, one of which was an air ball.

But they won, 76-60.

Hulk Hogan Award — Carr, who was picked as the Cornhuskers' Iron Man after a rigorous off-season strength and conditioning program under the direction of Nebraska strength Coach Boyd Epley and his assistants.

Stick-To-It Award — Bill Johnson, a walkon from Plainview, who stuck out the season even though he rarely got to play in games.

Most Valuable Player(s) Award — Carr, Day, Jackman, Bailous, Martz, the Cornhusker seniors. "I said before the season that for us to be successful, the seniors had to come through, and they have. I think our seniors have had a great year; I really mean that. They've played darn close to their potential," Nee said.

The imaginary awards ceremony ends with thunderous applause, which continues as the audience gives Nee's first group of Cornhuskers a standing ovation. ♦

That was a finish Hollywood script writers would have difficulty topping. Vick also hit two free throws with 43 seconds remaining in overtime to tie the game at 81.

Adios Division II Award — Presented to Northwest Missouri State, which lost to the Cornhuskers 105-64 in their next-to-last non-conference game at the Devaney Sports Center. "This is the last Division II team you'll ever see in the Devaney Sports Center," Nee said afterward.

One of his priorities when he arrived at Nebraska was to up-grade the non-conference schedule. At tournament time, the NCAA ignores games played against non-Division I opponents for purposes of awarding bids.

Lee Iacocca Award — Carr, who else? He was definitely the Cornhuskers' Cadillac throughout the season.

Most Courageous But Ill-Advised De-

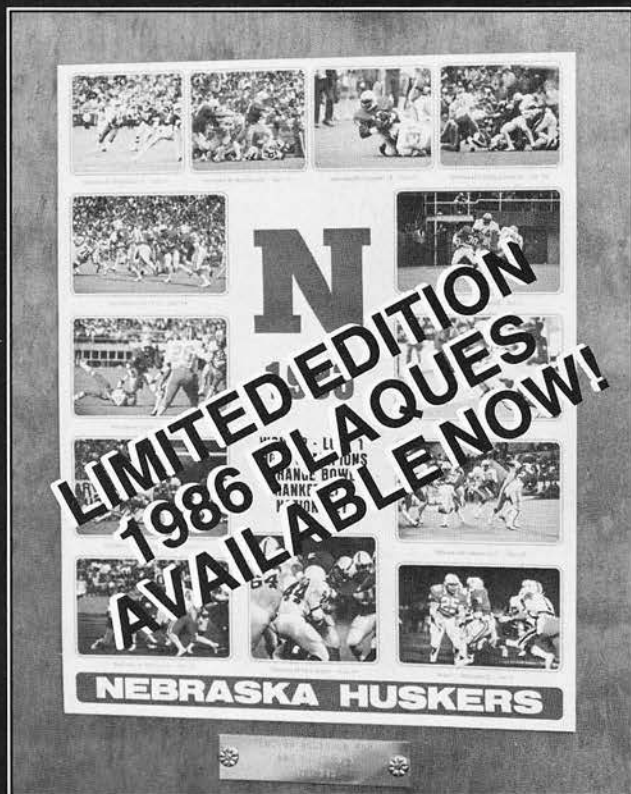
cision Award — Nee, for trying to run with Oklahoma in the 133-97 loss at Norman. "It's a philosophy I believe in," Nee said by way of explanation.

Tubbs would've presented the award that afternoon. "Nebraska didn't come in here and hold the ball. They chose to run. They're going to be a running team in our league, and I think they're going to be successful," Tubbs said afterward.

Most Over-Used Quote Award — "The kids found a way to win."

Most Original Cornhusker Quote Award — Bailous. After the Southern Illinois game: "If I had a bad heart, I probably would've had a heart attack." After the second Kansas game, explaining how he jumped 10 feet in the air when Vick made the winning basket: "I must have because when I came down, there were people underneath me."

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'SORLEY' NEEDED

When Floyd followed son Tom to Lincoln, he never dreamed he'd be staying around to run the films department.



Most everyone on the airplane was stone, cold silent; ready for the day to end and night to come and ease their pain with sleep. Flying back to Lincoln after any football loss is tough, even more so losing to Colorado and its rambunctious fans. But rest would soothe the athletes' young bodies and the energetic coaches' minds. Early the next morning, battle lines would be drawn to rescue the 1986 football season from disappointment — after precious sleep. But for 71-year-old Floyd Sorley, there would be little sleep, and he would work late into the night, while coaches slept, to help the athletes prepare for that resurrection.

The game film had to be processed.

Upon arriving back in Lincoln late Saturday night, Sorley was joined by UNL Photo Production Manager Jim Dunlap and Director John Bousek as they embarked on seven-hours of frantic film processing. By 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Coach Tom Osborne wanted his coaches, as usual, to be armed

with multiple copies of the game film. Saturday's mistakes would be inspected frame by agonizing frame. Only then could corrections be made. And there was Sorley, a grandfather, doing what only an insomniac could love.

Processing went as expected and Sorley completed a final mission: dropping off the canisters of film at the football offices before he went home.

Finally, a warm bed awaited him. Warm, that is, if he hurried. If lucky, he could creep in the back door before his wife Bonnie, whom he calls 'Mom,' went to Sunday school.

Sorley, a retired Texan with silver hair, actually enjoys this late-night ritual every fall. He stands out among his co-workers and football associates, and not just because of his age. To be sure, he's a throwback — a vintage black-and-white talkie in Nebraska's modern era of football film technology. But even more so among athletes who are young enough to be

his great grandchildren. Sorley probably spends more time in the football office than the jocks. He's not on scholarship and, after football season, he doesn't even get paid. It's the love of the game and the people who play it at Nebraska that attract him. If big-time college football is high pressure, then Sorley is Nebraska's valve, constantly on hand, day after day through the off-season, to help ease whatever tension might build up in the football offices of the Huskers' South Stadium Building. Nebraska's race for No. 1 is no life-or-death matter to him: contentedly helping organize the Husker film file, Sorley's certain he's already died and gone to heaven.

Sorley coached football or taught school throughout his education career in small Texas towns, and on those rare occasions when he wasn't a coach, he would still hang out in the coaches offices, listening to stories, telling stories or just keeping in touch with the game he loved. His football obsession started when he played on



Sorley is surrounded by the treasures of Husker football tradition.

Cranfill Gap High School's first team during the Depression. Sorley boasts how this "poor boy" from Cranfill Gap, Texas worked and played his way through Howard Payne College in nearby Brownwood. He planned on just teaching "phys ed" but, instead, he followed the high school coaching trail which landed him in such classic Western-sounding Texas towns as DeLeon, Grand Falls, Cameran, Clifton and finally Big Springs. Not surprisingly, he still cuts a striking Texas figure; tall, solid, with thick hands and a white mustache. Change his old coach's cap to a Stetson and it's easy to imagine him transformed from "Coach Sorley" into "Marshall Sorley — Lone Star Peace Officer."

Certainly, he tried other professions; one year as insurance salesman and a couple more as school principal. Still, Sorley always returned to football before retiring after more than 30 years of service.

But that wasn't what brought him to Nebraska. Tom Sorley, his son and

starting Husker quarterback in 1977-78, did. "We always followed our kids," the older Sorley says. "Whatever it was, if they were playing marbles, we'd be there."

And it wasn't just athletic Tom that they followed. For example, when daughter Veronica Sue attended Stanton High School, she was honored with a state certificate in home economics which, frankly, wasn't such a big darned deal for the hundreds of other Texas girls who had won one at other schools. But at Stanton, it was something to crow about. So Floyd and Mom did just that. Mom Sorley, who also was a school teacher, took off three days and paid a substitute teacher out of her own pocket just to make the out-of-town trip and see her daughter receive that piece of paper.

Concerning Tom, it didn't matter that the Big Springs football team only won one game his senior year. He got a chance to play major college football and his folks weren't about to miss that either.

So, he and Bonnie came to Lincoln in the fall of their son's junior year, 1977, barely four months after Floyd retired from the Big Springs school system. They came to watch Tom play. When next August 22 comes, it will mark the 10th year Floyd and Mom have lived in the same apartment.

But if ex-Husker Tom Sorley now works for Commonwealth Electric in California, what are Floyd and Mom still doing in Lincoln? Tom was the youngest Sorley sibling by 11 years. The nest is clear.

"Friends have asked us why we didn't follow Tom," explains Floyd. "At retirement, Mom and I recommit- ted ourselves to spend the rest of our lives ministering to the people." With that, the transplanted Texans cram each "retirement" day with hours of church service. Plus, it's not uncommon for Floyd to spend six hours at the Nebraska football office. Isn't life supposed to slow down after 65?

"I'm more busy now than I've ever been," he explains. "I need to cut out some activities."

One of those to be cut, most definitely, will not be his Husker connection.

Before 1979, even highly respected Nebraska operated its game film library in seat-of-the-pants fashion.

Canisters of film were stacked willy-nilly in a glorified closet on the second floor of the South Stadium football complex. Finding last week's game might mean stepping over piles of ancient reels. There was no guarantee the film in the can would match the label on the outside.

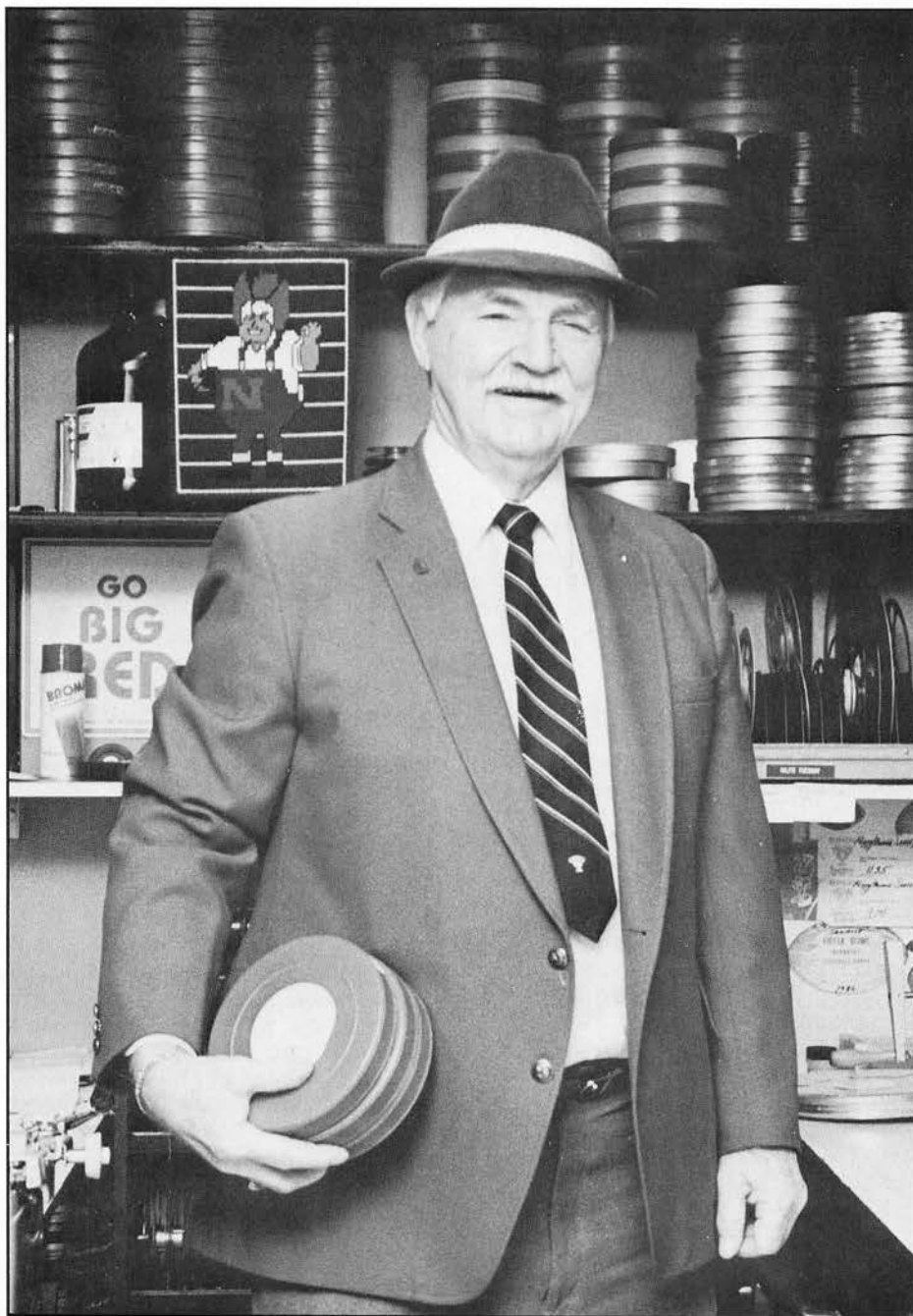
George Darlington, today's defensive secondary coach, tackled the problem. He enlisted Floyd to organize the film library shortly after Tom left. What was once a cluttered storage room is today a systematic, easy-access work site. Through Floyd's initiative, shelves were added, canisters were color coded and efficient splicing equipment was installed. Requests from coaches are easily handled now.

Floyd's personal touch is everywhere in the cozy room. Offensive film is coded with red labels. Defense with black. Kicking in light brown. Duplicate films are labeled in grey. Floyd edits the offensive movies into instructional aids. For example, he reviews each game at season's end and pinpoints a play the coaches want to dissect, perhaps 41 Option. He then splices out 41 Option from each game, and makes a new reel full of thousands of frames of nothing but 41 Option. Husker coaches take it from there, armed with Floyd's instant replay of sorts. That's his job.

Floyd adorns the film library walls with dozens of business cards, prestigious leave-behinds from National Football League scouts who regularly contact Floyd to find celluloid on Huskers with pro potential. One entire wall of the room, barely wide enough for two people and a tad longer than a chip-shot field goal, is full of shelves from ceiling to floor. In another corner, Floyd has saved some classics from recent years: UCLA in 1983, Oklahoma in 1985, Colorado in 1985. Someday they will come in handy and can be retrieved in a split second.

But Floyd's other assignment, during the football season, is more than volunteer work; helping film practice and games may be a part-time job for Floyd, but it's a big-time responsibility. Dunlap normally oversees audiovisual projects throughout the UNL campus, but once autumn rolls around his time is dominated with football cinematography. Each practice is filmed, except Friday. Instead of starting his football day in the morning, Floyd arrives at Memorial Stadium as drills begin around 3:30 p.m. Then, for a couple of hours, he helps photograph the Huskers, and the day finally ends with film processing and delivery of the finished product to Husker Central.

Things are quite different today



Floyd Sorley can take his work home with him if he wants.

to take off as quarterback Vince Feragamo completed his eligibility after the 1976 season and turned pro. With Floyd's career nearing the retirement stage, he and Mom headed for Nebraska. They didn't bother to sell their house in Big Springs; just rented it out in case they returned. Today, it's still being rented out.

"That first year, all I did was just go to all the practices," Floyd explains of 1977. "No filming, just hanging around. I'd go with other fathers, and we'd watch the kids practice. We were sort of a 'Sideline Club' which was a great way to spend my first year of retirement." And it got better.

Tom was a starter in '77 and quarterbacked the Huskers in a 21-17 win over North Carolina in the Liberty Bowl as he hit on 11 of 13 passes. He was again at the helm his senior year (1978) as Nebraska beat Oklahoma, 17-14, in Lincoln only to have the Sooners resurface for a grudge match in the Orange Bowl, where Sorley continued his passing firepower (18 of 31 and two TDs) in a losing effort. Having hit over 55 percent of his passes in three varsity seasons, Sorley currently stands sixth on the all-time Nebraska passing charts with 2,230 yards through the air. He completed his career as a three-year letter winner, two-year starter, 1978 season team captain and invitee to that year's Challenge Bowl all-star game.

And then he was gone.

What remained, though, were the coaches, secretaries and administrators who had made Floyd and Mom feel so welcome during their son's career. "They've treated me royally and have been as nice to Mom as you can imagine," Floyd says with an almost boyish look-what-I-found smile. "That's what's made us want to stay: the people."

Floyd is quick to share his football expertise with Nebraska's current assistants, from one coach to another. When film filing is under control, he is almost certain to be sharing a leisurely yarn with football secretary Joni Holtzen or Tom Osborne's personal secretary Mary Lyn Wininger. Mom is quick to share, too. In fact, her's is quite a mouth-watering contribution. For the past three years, she has endeavored to prepare her personal home-made ice cream specialty each Thursday before game day and deliver it to the football offices. The result is a light-hearted feeding frenzy which, for a few brief moments, takes

from when Floyd first started his film career in the late 1960s at Big Springs High School where Coach Spike Dykes first asked him to work a camera during football games. "I barely knew how to operate a Brownie camera," recalls Floyd. "Spike told me to drive to Abilene, which was about 30 minutes away, and talk with this guy who operated a camera store, and supposedly this fella would teach me the tricks of the trade. Well, when I got there and told the store owner why I was there, he was stunned. I guess Spike hadn't told him yet. Anyway, instead of learning the tricks of the trade, I got a quickie 30-minute lesson in the bare basics. I guess you could

say I learned a lot about filming football games just by doing it."

Still, Floyd's arrival with the camera was Big Springs' move into big-time high school football, and the timing was perfect from a family standpoint; Tom would be starting his high school career in a few years.

The younger Sorley took after his dad with bundles of athletic ability and was recruited out of high school by most of the Southwest Conference passing schools as well as Nebraska, which was known to throw more than a pass or two in those days.

After a couple of years, young Tom was seeing plenty of playing time at Nebraska and his career was starting

the anxious edge off of the hectic football bustle. Husker football sighs contentedly. Within an hour, the five-gallon freezer is empty.

"Get the recipe!" insists Darlington, a confessed home-made ice cream fiend. "You've got to get the recipe."

Her efforts are appreciated.

"That's all Mom really needs," Floyd says. "I don't really think she'd enjoy it as much if they tried to pay her for the trouble. The cost doesn't

matter."

What does matter to Floyd and Mom is the approach of a new football season. Through March and April, he will help with filming spring practice and the spring game. When August rolls around, the UNL photo crew will shoot the annual Shrine All-Star football game featuring Nebraska's best graduated seniors. Starting barely two days into practice next season, Floyd will help with the ritual of film-

ing drills. Then comes the season and the games. And the ice cream.

With high expectations and a torrid non-conference schedule, Husker football promises to be electrifying. But if lightening strikes the Nebraska football offices and nerves begin to burn and smoke, a refreshing rain is sure to follow in the form of Floyd, sauntering through the halls, arms loaded down with film, or better yet, ice cream.

'The Recipe'

When Mom Sorley brings her home-made ice cream to the Nebraska football offices each Thursday before a game, Coach George Darlington sets his watch. If he doesn't find that five-gallon freezer by 1:30 p.m., the good stuff will be gone. Count on it. Darlington, a confessed home-made ice cream connoisseur, insists the concoction is a frozen delight. Here is Mom's highly personalized recipe that makes for some happy Huskers...

"Start with jumbo eggs, about six," she explains. "Then beat them good, until they're light and frothy."

"Next, add about, but not quite two cups of sugar. Let's call it a 'scant' two cups. Then beat real good."

"For the vanilla, add a little over a teaspoon. I use Mexican vanilla. It has a little more flavor and it's stronger. If you're going to use regular vanilla, you probably ought to

make it a teaspoon and a half. George found some Mexican vanilla for me one time, and I've ended up using it for years."

"Next, add a good two cups of pure cream. Pour in about a quarter cup at a time and mix it up real good. After you've used all the pure cream, finish it out with milk."

Get the freezer iced down, plug it in and let 'er rip. (Heaven forbid, does anyone still use a hand-crank freezer?). Now you got your five gallons of Husker desert.

Mom stays away from added flavorings in the ice cream so as not to put in something that the staff might not enjoy. Instead, she simply sends the toppings, whether it's nuts, fruit or sweets, separately.

Think of Mom each Thursday during football season. ♦

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Husker Pursuit

As Nebraska football gears up for the 1987 season, the Huskers face several crossroads. With its returning starters and recent recruits, the team teeters on the edge of greatness into the 1990s. Where will the Huskers finish? In the Top 10 or in the Top 3? Also, Tom Osborne faces some decisions that will affect football history. Will he coach only another four or five years and try for the mythical national title? Or will he guide the Huskers through the 21st Century and chase Bear Bryant's records?

This week's Husker Pursuit offers trivia about other Nebraska crossroads: where football changed, sometimes for better and sometimes for worse.

1. In its infancy, Nebraska football had different team nicknames, and became known as Cornhuskers only in 1900. Which of the following was NOT an early team nickname?

- A) Bugeaters
- B) Antelopes
- C) Titans
- D) Old Gold Knights.

2. Memorial Stadium underwent a major change in 1970. What was it?

- A) AstroTurf was installed.
- B) New goal posts were installed after the old ones were torn down following a 28-21 win over OU.
- C) Nebraska began its string of consecutive home sellouts.
- D) Seating in the north end zone was added, completely bowling the facility.

3. On Dec. 20, 1962, Nebraska beat Miami (Florida), 36-34, in the ill-fated Gotham Bowl. What made that game significant in Husker history?

- A) It was the first UNL game ever televised.
- B) It was the first bowl game ever for Nebraska.
- C) It was Bob Devaney's first bowl victory.
- D) It was the first victory the Huskers ever recorded in a televised bowl game.

4. When Nebraska plays UCLA next fall in Lincoln, the game will have extra meaning for Osborne. Why is that?

- A) His first college coaching job was with UCLA.
- B) Nebraska has never lost to the Bruins.
- C) UCLA turned in OU to the NCAA in 1972 and the Sooners were eventually put on probation.

D) Osborne's first coaching win was over UCLA.

5. In 1976, Nebraska finished fourth in the Big Eight with a 9-3-1 record. Besides that uncharacteristic low standing, what else made 1976 an unusual year for Husker football?

- A) Nebraska lost three home games.
- B) Vince Ferragamo graduated after passing for over 2,000 yards.
- C) The freshman football schedule was cancelled.
- D) It marked the first time in 15 years the Huskers didn't score at least 30 points in at least one game.

6. Since Osborne became head coach in 1973, what is the record of the freshman football team?

- A) 62-6 B) 98-31 C) 42-0 D) 31-6-5

7. In which decade have the Huskers posted their highest winning percentage?

- A) 1940s at 91% B) 1910s at 79%
- C) 1970s at 82% D) 1980s at 85%

8. Only twice (in 1973 and 1977) has an Osborne team averaged less than 30 points per game. When was the last time a Nebraska squad averaged less than 20 points per game?

- A) 1968 B) 1961 C) 1959 D) 1943.

9. What happened to Nebraska football in 1941?

- A) World War II forced the cancellation of two full seasons.
- B) Osborne was born.
- C) The Huskers started a string of nine straight losing seasons.
- D) Nebraska won its first Big Six Conference title.

10. Since Osborne became head coach at Nebraska, which other college football coach has won more games?

- A) Joe Paterno
- B) Barry Switzer
- C) Bo Schembechler
- D) nobody

11. Nebraska's offense began a steady march to fame following the arrival of head coach Tom Osborne. How many times since 1973 have the Huskers gained more than 600 yards in total offense in a game?

- A) 10 B) 15 C) 22 D) 30

ANSWERS:

1. C) Titans. Bugeaters, Antelopes and Old Gold Knights were all nicknames, at one time or another before the turn of the century, for Nebraska football teams.

2. A) AstroTurf was installed.

3. D) It was the first bowl victory Nebraska ever recorded on TV. More so,

it was the first game of any kind that the Huskers won on television after six previous defeats. Although it was Devaney's first bowl win at Nebraska, he had already won the Sun Bowl while at Wyoming.

4. D) Osborne's first coaching win (40-13 in 1973) was over the Bruins. Although, Osborne is 3-0 against UCLA, Devaney lost his only battle with the Bruins, 17-20, in 1972.

5. B) Vince Ferragamo graduated after passing for more than 2,000 yards. This marked the transition to Nebraska's dominant running game. Since then, the Huskers have averaged more than 300 yards rushing for 10 straight years.

6. A) 62-6.

7. D) The 1980s at 85 percent. Nebraska currently enjoys the strongest winning tradition in school history. The 1970s winning percentage of 82 is correct, however, the 1940s were really the worst in school annals as the Huskers won only 37 percent of their games.

8. A) 1968. That year, Nebraska finished 6-4 and was actually outscored by its opponents, 155-161. That 15.5 scoring average is regularly eclipsed these days in a single quarter. Since 1968, Nebraska has outscored its foes by an average score of 34-12.

9. C) The Huskers started a string of nine straight losing seasons. The '40s and '50s were Nebraska's football Dark Ages as the Huskers won only 73 games and lost 115.

10. D) Nobody. Osborne has 137 victories, Switzer also has 137, Paterno has 136 and Schembechler has 128.

11. B) Fifteen times. Before that, only the 1971 team under Devaney ever gained that much (vs. Missouri, 36-0, 603 yards). Osborne-coached teams have gained over 700 yards three times (799 yards against Colorado in '78, and 719 in '81, and 790 yards against Minnesota in '83). The Huskers topped 800 yards once: an NCAA-record 883 yards against New Mexico State in 1982.

How did you do?

9-11 Correct Answers — Definitely a pre-season All-American.

7-8 — You gain a starting assignment in the Red-White Spring Game.

5-6 — Those touted recruits may put you on the bench next fall.

3-4 — Strictly redshirt material.

0-2 — Destined to set career records on the freshman team. ♦



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NEVER TOO EARLY

Nebraska football coaches have already begun looking at film of their non-conference opponents on the '87 schedule which is loaded and should be the toughest Husker slate since 1981 when Nebraska faced Iowa, Florida State, Penn State and Auburn before tackling the Big Eight.

Assistant coach George Darlington, who oversees the secondary, expects the most dangerous team in the non-conference schedule to be South Carolina, 3-6-2 in 1986 and a 27-24 loser to the Huskers on the Gamecocks' home turf.



Tom Osborne

"I really believe that South Carolina will be as tough a game for us as the others," he said in comparison to the other battles that could become national telecasts: UCLA in Lincoln and Arizona State in Tempe.

South Carolina returns 18 starters from last year's team, including redshirt freshman quarterback Todd Ellis, who passed for almost 3,000 yards. Ellis could be headed for national stardom, or at least some of his teammates think so. Another highly touted freshman signal caller, Pat Turner, decided that Ellis' competition was

too tough and opted to find another school where he'd have a chance to play.

With their returning talent and rabid fan support, the Gamecocks could be in a position next fall to rise to prominence like another school from South Carolina. In 1981, Clemson wasn't rated in anybody's pre-season Top 20 but went undefeated through the regular season and beat Nebraska in the Orange Bowl for the national title.

"They will have a very good team next year, and the best thing I can say about that game is that it's going to be in Lincoln," Darlington said.

"UCLA is going to be very talented. In fact, they got a couple of the players out of SMU. They have a couple of great running backs including Gaston Green who could be a Heisman Trophy-type back."

The Bruins will also have strong-armed Troy Aikman at quarterback. He transferred from Oklahoma one year ago and seems to have the inside track on the starting job.

ASU, however, was hurt by graduation and appears to be down a little from the 10-1-1 campaign for '86.

PROMISES, PROMISES

For people who feel they have to gamble on horse racing or in Las Vegas to get their thrills, they should try to find someone to lay odds on with which schools freshmen recruits will sign. It's hard to imagine anything more unpredictable.

For example, it's come to light now that Nebraska's recently signed quarterback Mickey Joseph had, indeed, privately committed to Oklahoma during his visit to Norman in late-January.

Handling the constant inquiries with cool, non-committal statements, Joseph has the makings of being a great actor. His Norman tour guide Jamelle Holieway refused to comment throughout the weekend on the Louisiana prospect's future. But as it was time to go home, Holieway fudged and said that Joseph was ready to become a Sooner. He insisted, however, that the prep star would have to confirm that. Joseph did.

Apparently the last formality was to contact Coach Tom Osborne and relay the bad news before Joseph made his decision public about going to OU. The rest is history.

PICKING SIDES

One recent recruit who made a quick and easy decision about coming to Nebraska was Chicago wide receiver Nate Turner of Mt. Carmel High School. Husker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride had a good feeling about the *Parade* All-American after hearing just one story about Turner's childhood. As a youngster playing one-on-one football with friends, Turner and his buddies would always liven up their contests by fantasizing they were superstars, playing up to the role of their heroes. Turner was always quick to lay down the rules when choosing "who to be" in neighborhood games. "You be Oklahoma," he would insist, "and I'll be Nebraska."

One reason the talented receiver didn't pursue a career in the Big 10 was because "all their receivers do is catch the ball. They don't hit anybody. I want to go where I can play a physical game."

With that kind of football disposition, it would not be unthinkable to consider playing Turner at other

positions where his size (6-foot-2, 205) would give the Huskers a distinct advantage. McBride hedges a



Broderick Thomas

little about that size, though, and says Turner may actually be closer to 6-3 and 215. "If he keeps growing," McBride said with a laugh, "I want him at noseguard."

That may not be so outlandish. Turner's father is 6-3 and weighs 300 pounds, most of which is muscle.

MIND OVER MATTER

Nebraska enjoyed success last year by inviting specialists in sports psychology to work closely with the football team on how to improve mental preparation for a game.

Dr. Wes Simes of UNL and Dr. Ken Ravizza, a consultant from California, were even invited to the Sugar Bowl where they worked with individuals and groups of players in an effort to improve concentration. As late as only a few hours before the team bus departed for the Super Dome, Ravizza was still consulting with quarterback Steve Taylor. Obviously, it's hard, if not impossible, to scientifically judge if such mental grooming (like watching a personal highlight film repeatedly in an effort to reinforce past performance) was directly responsible

for Taylor having a great second half and winning the Sugar Bowl MVP award.

But results from this innovative attempt were good enough in '86 to move the Husker coaching staff to request the program be continued. Drs. Simes and Ravizza will again become active in helping the football team this spring as the Red-White game approaches on April 25. Dr. Simes indicates that Nebraska's thorough attention to mental aspects of the game is rare in collegiate sports, but that several professional teams across the country believe in its importance, and several have contracted with Dr. Ravizza for consultations.

When the program got underway last summer, an unexpected benefit also came up. In a group discussion, Dr. Simes openly encouraged the players to say what was on their minds. It soon became apparent that some players felt there was an unspoken rule of behavior at Nebraska, where Coach Osborne exercised a lot of control over what the players said and did. Having visited at length with Osborne, Simes saw that some miscommunication was going on.

He asked Osborne if that, indeed, was the way he felt. Osborne expressed disappointment that his true feelings about the players and their role as student-athletes were not clearly understood.

What followed was a meeting between Osborne and players, and people heard things they had never heard before. Noone had ever asked Osborne point-blank, "How do you want us to act? Are we supposed to act like you?" The answer was simple.

"Coach Osborne made it clear he wants the players



Neil Smith

to be themselves and be individuals," explained Simes. "I think some of the players assumed that since their coach has a rather conservative approach to life that it was expected of them to be the same. If they are an outgoing person who shows their emotions openly, then they should feel comfortable doing so. He made it clear that he wants the players to enjoy their stay at Nebraska, and that there are only a few guidelines he expects them to follow. After it was over, I think the players and Coach Osborne came away feeling that something had been accomplished."

TIME WILL TELL

The fruits of an entire recruiting class generally don't materialize for several years, and the freshman class of 1984 is proving that the long wait can be worth it.

Only 17 scholarship players were signed that year, but nine have had or seem likely to get starting jobs and make major contributions next fall when they will generally be seniors and redshirt juniors.

Here's what the top rookies from 1984 have done or should be doing for Nebraska this spring:

Dana Brinson — starting wingback in 1986; Keith Jones — starting I-back in

1986; Andy Keeler — candidate for starting job at offensive left guard; Tyreese Knox — part-time starter at I-back in 1986; John Kroeker — No. 1 punter last year; Todd Millikan — top pass-catching tight end last year with 11 receptions; Lawrence Pete — projected as No. 1 noseguard; Neil Smith — projected as No. 1 left tackle; and Brian Washington — projected as No. 1 strong safety.

As noted in this issue's story on college football attrition, any given class can turn 180 degrees before graduation time. At this point, the freshman class of '84 has shown tenacity: 15 of the 17 signees are still on campus and look to be in the top two or three on next year's depth chart.

By any standard, those freshmen have developed into a strong class with several players having a chance to grab post-season honors. It should be noted, though, that this success has taken four years. The much-ballyhooed high school recruits of '87 should realistically be given the same time frame to prove themselves.

Expecting even prep All-Americans to step forward as rookies and make an impact borders on emotional instability. Just look at Broderick Thomas, who will surprise noone if he

makes All-American as a junior next fall. He initially played on the JV team as a freshman before being moved up to varsity. He played in eight games and recorded 13 tackles.

In his first season, Thomas certainly was a valuable reserve, but he was brought along at a leisurely pace and registered the vast majority of his tackles (nine) in one game (Kansas State). That's about as extensive as most really good freshmen should be used.

Recruits like Mickey Joseph and Leodis Flowers should not be deified just because they had great high school careers and were involved in celebrated recruiting wars.

Former Oklahoma running back Marcus Dupree, who also considered signing with Nebraska, had the world handed to him on a platter at a very early age. Being a star has its inherent pressures and, apparently, Dupree could not cope. With Nebraska's current solid lineup of sophomores and juniors, the '87 recruits should have what Dupree lacked — time.

GETTING BIGGER

Especially in the past few years, Nebraska has seen more and more players who stand over 6-5, and some of them have played often or could, someday soon.

Defensive left tackle Neil Smith (6-6, 250) is probably the tallest of this year's projected starters. But a myriad of younger players are even more massive. A trio of true freshmen will be getting a serious look during spring drills, and not just because of their height. Tom Punt (6-8, 250) and Doug Glaser (6-7, 280) will be given a shot at providing depth at offensive right tackle. ♦

Charlie McBride



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Report Cards 'Excellent' On NU Freshmen

By Wayne Bishop

Young,
Rodgers,
Walker,
Gregory,
Glaser,
Mills all
have good
chances
at playing
this fall.

Although the excited talk about the latest class of Nebraska football recruits has not yet died down, now is a perfect time to evaluate the Husker freshmen of 1986. And it's an evaluation which should do nothing but sharpen the edge of anticipation for Big Red fans.

In fact, a hard look at the recruiting classes of the past four years (including 1987) points out just how well the NU coaching staff has done its job of searching for talent. There has been a remarkable blend of immediate impact players and "projects." They should add up to a squad with all the ingredients to win that elusive third national title at Nebraska.

Start with the 1984 class, for example. This was the first class signed after the completion of the storied careers of Turner Gill, Mike Rozier, Irving Fryar, etc. Included in that class were Dana Brinson, Willie Griffin, Keith Jones, Tyreese Knox, John Kroeker, Todd Millikan, Lawrence Pete, Neil Smith and Brian Washington. The year before the Nebraska freshman team had included future stars Danny Noonan, Lee Jones, Marc Munford, Kevin Parsons, Steve Forch, Von Sheppard and John McCormick. That wasn't a bad bunch, either.

Names from the 1985 recruiting class which should be popping up quite a bit this spring (or have already become well known) include Richard Bell, LeRoy Etienne, Steve Taylor and Broderick Thomas. The latter three all played varsity ball as freshmen, an unusual accomplishment at Nebraska, where depth unmatched at any school in the country demands patience from young players.

A combination of patience and talent could thrust several members of the recruiting class of 1986 into the thick of things this spring. Some of the more promising prospects may still be a year away from the traveling squad,

but appear set to maintain the Husker image of a "refrigerator factory" when it comes to offensive linemen.

For the record, 1986 was not a great year on the field for the NU freshmen. They lost a game. The Air Force Academy pulled off a 24-18 coup on Oct. 10 of last year. Only once before in the 1980s has a Husker rookie team lost, that coming in 1984 when Waldorf Junior College (23-21) prevailed. Other than those two defeats, it's been nothing but 5-0 for the Big Red yearlings in 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1985.

While the Nebraska rookies lost that one contest to the Air Force jayvees, the overall development of the players was given a high mark by NU assistant coach Shane Thorrell, who is taking over the freshman team this year.

Here is Thorrell's evaluation of each of the freshmen, including a few of the top walkons from that 1986 squad:

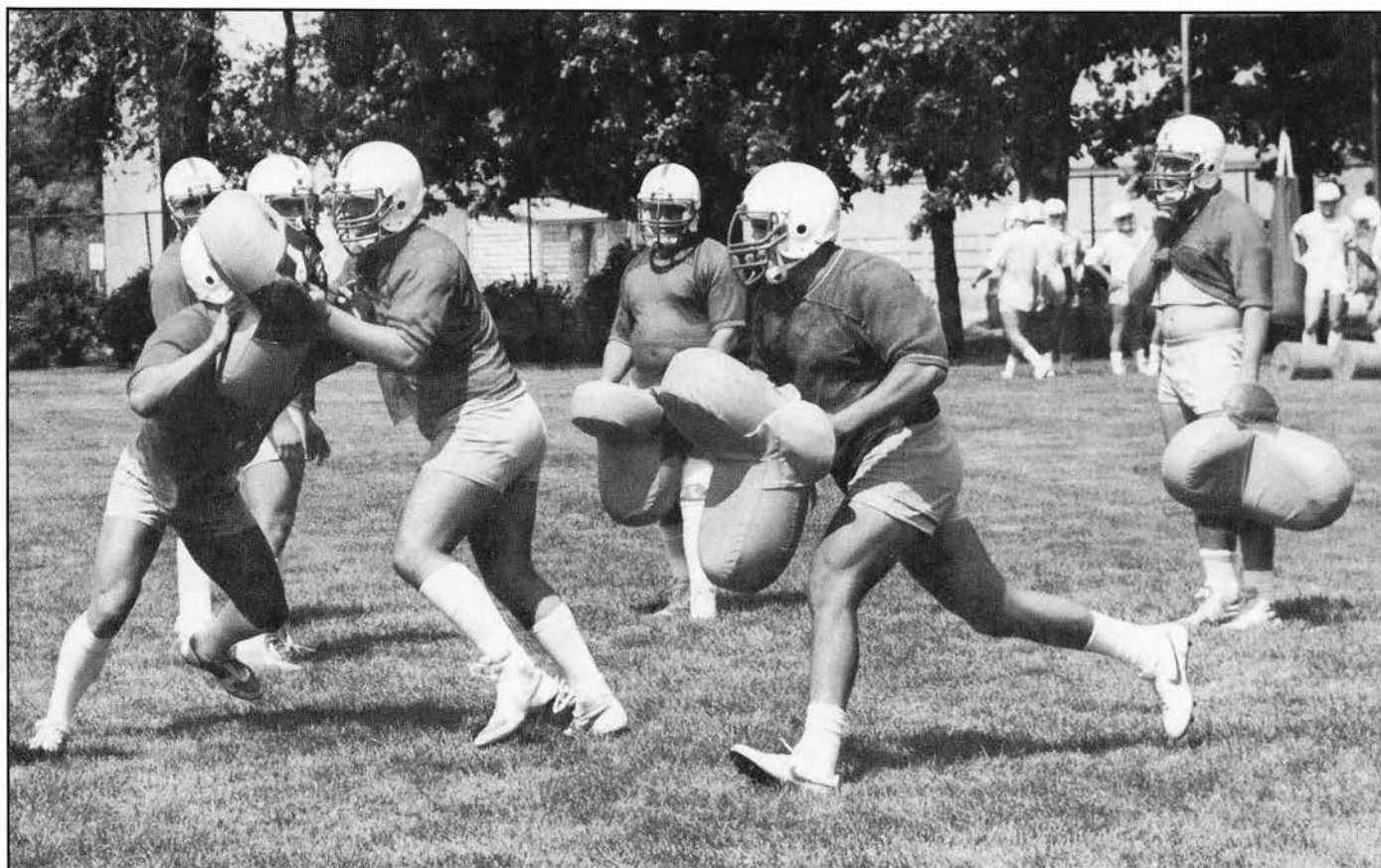
Paul Brungardt, 6-7, 245, lineman, Battle Creek, Nebraska: "Paul's doing real well. He injured his foot last year, so he redshirted. He played a little bit, but not enough to keep him from being a redshirt. Right now he's a defensive lineman."

Chris Caliendo, 6-4, 230, linebacker, Brookfield, Wisconsin: "He played linebacker for the freshmen team and did a real good job. He's another kid who put on some weight (up from 210 when he was recruited). He's worked real diligently in the weight room."

Jon Crippen, 5-11, 180, defensive back, Houston Westfield: "John's another one who had a bad hamstring, so he didn't play last year. He was redshirted. He'll play cornerback this spring."

Doug Glaser, 6-7, 280, offensive lineman, Mesquite, Texas: "Doug did a real good job on the offensive line. He just needs to do more work in the weight room at getting stronger. He's going to be a good one some day. He has good size. Good footwork. He just needs to get stronger. He'll be trying to show enough this spring to make the traveling squad. He's trimmed up, down from 290 or more to 280 or 275. That's what he needs to do, lose a few pounds and gain muscle."

Morgan Gregory, 6-0, 180, split end, Denver Manuel: "He had a great freshman year (16 catches for 336 yards and a TD in four games, plus some varsity experience). It just depends on how many receivers are in haven't talked about moving him. He has great instincts as a receiver, and the picture this spring. He's a good enough athlete he could play split end or wingback, but right now they



Freshmen get more individual attention and less pressure in the Husker program.

great control of his body. He made some catches on the freshmen team that not too many guys can make. He has a knack of being able to find the ball, no matter where it's at, and catching it."

Kurt Hasley, 6-3, 240, defensive tackle, DeWitt, Nebraska: "Kurt is a real hard worker. He did a good job on the freshman team (21 tackles, two of them for losses). He's one of those guys who needs to put on a little weight and get some experience and he'll be a good player. If there's a position on the team right now where you could by-pass a redshirt year, it's the defensive line. We don't have a lot of guys there with experience."

Karl Hroza, 5-11, 175, defensive back, Columbus, Nebraska: "Karl was a strong safety for us, and he's a real hard hitter — a real tough kid. He doesn't need to put on much weight. He's about the right size." (Hroza had 13 tackles and two interceptions for the frosh team.)

Jeff Miller, 6-3, 210, quarterback, Houston Cypress-Fairbanks: "Jeff was a good punter for the freshmen team, and he'll keep working on that. But since we had McCathorn Clayton and Wendell Wooten moving to defensive backs, there aren't a whole lot

of guys at quarterback, especially this spring. So it's pretty wide open for those freshmen." (Miller rushed 21 times for nine net yards, scored one TD and hit on 13 of 29 passes for 232 yards with four interceptions.)

Tom Punt, 6-8, 270, offensive lineman, Sioux Center, Iowa: "Tom's a real big kid, and he's a lot like Glaser. He's big, but he needs to work hard in the weight room and get stronger. But he's going to be a good offensive lineman some day. He's gotten bigger and stronger already."

Patrick Tyrance, 6-1, 225, linebacker, Millard North: "He's another one who's been working real hard. Patrick had a real good freshman year. He has good strength. He just needs to work on his speed and agility. He does real well in the weight room, so he's not one of those guys who needs to get a lot stronger." (Tyrance had 19 tackles, five of them unassisted, for the freshmen.)

Kenny Walker, 6-4, 230, defensive end, Crane, Texas: "Kenny has really improved in the weight room. You can really tell, because his arms have gotten a lot bigger. He's probably up to 230 or so by now (from 215 when recruited). He'll challenge for playing time at defensive end." (Walker, who

is deaf, had 20 tackles for the freshmen, including three sacks for 21 yards in losses and five tackles for losses of 29 yards.)

Jim Wanek, 6-2, 235, center, Aurora, Nebraska: "A good offensive center. One of those guys who's going to work hard and it's going to pay off for him in a couple of years."

Rick Wendland, 6-1, 185, defensive back, Washburn, Kansas: "Rick is a strong safety with good size, good attitude. Both he and Karl Hroza are good hitters, good tacklers." (Wendland had 12 tackles in four games, eight of them solos. He had two tackles for losses, broke up two passes and recovered a fumble.)

Jake Young, 6-5, 240, offensive lineman, Midland (Texas) Lee: "Jake had a pretty good year for a freshman on the varsity. Offensive linemen usually don't play varsity ball, but he's not the usual freshman. Coach (Milt) Tenopir and Coach (Dan) Young were real happy with him. I'm sure he'll fit into the picture this spring, and he'll be in there battling for a starting job."

Terry Rodgers, 5-8, 165, I-back, National City, California: "Terry really amazes the coaches with his quickness and his burst for the first 10 yards. When we tested before winter

conditioning, I think he ran a 4.38 in the 40, which is quick! But he's been running indoor track for the track team. He's improved a lot. He's got real good running form, and he's going to be a good player. He'll be at I-back this spring. He needs to put on some weight, but he has gotten stronger and bigger."

Darwin Snyder, 5-8, 170, back, Winnebago, Nebraska: "Darwin's working hard in winter conditioning, and he's another one of those guys that we just don't know how he'll fit in. Everything's open, and he could be right in the picture. Who knows?" (Snyder, who was featured in the last issue of *Huskies Illustrated*, carried only nine times in three frosh games, but gained 77 yards, for an 8.6 average. He scored two touchdowns.)

Gerry Gdowski, 6-2, 180, quarterback, Fremont, Nebraska: "A real fine athlete. He's like the rest of those freshmen quarterbacks: he's going to be right in the picture, and if he has a good spring, he'll be right up there. Gerry's a real good option quarterback...a good runner." (Gdowski rushed for 172 yards on 36 carries, a 4.8 average. He scored one touchdown and threw for another, hitting 11 of 38 passes with only one interception.)

Robert Hicks, 5-11, 175, defensive back, Los Angeles Fremont: "Robert played corner for us, and he's put on some weight. He's another kid who likes to hit, and that's what you like to see in the defensive backfield." (Hicks had eight tackles in four games, five of them unassisted.)

Shane Lair, 6-1, 210, running back, Lincoln, Nebraska: "Shane broke his ankle, so it's been kind of a slow process for him. He's got good size. I'm not sure whether he's going to play I-back or fullback, but it will probably be fullback."

Jeff Mills, 6-4, 230, defensive end, Montclair, New Jersey: "He'll be up there, battling for one of the spots behind the starters at defensive end. He's put on 10 or 15 pounds, and he's gotten stronger." (Mills had 14 tackles in four games, including a sack for 12 yards. He also had five tackles for losses totalling 23 yards, had a pass break up and a recovery of a fumble.)

Mike Murray, 5-11, 245, nose guard, Chicago Mt. Carmel: "He is a real strong kid, and this spring will be important for him because there's not a lot of guys at nose guard who have playing experience. He's not very tall, but he's strong. At nose guard he gives them (offensive linemen) fits. (Murray led the freshmen in tackles with 38 in four games, 14 of them unassisted.)

Mark Hagge, 5-11, 210, linebacker, Omaha Creighton Prep: "He's kind of the defensive leader on the freshman team. He's a real emotional player...a real tough kid. A hard hitter." (Hagge was second on the team in tackles behind Murray with 37, 17 of them solo. He had one sack, one tackle for loss and a fumble recovery.)

Bob Hansen, 6-3, 210, linebacker, Ashland (Nebraska) Greenwood: "I know the coaches were real pleased with him. He's got good size, does things right. He just has a great nose for the football." (Hansen was in on 23 tackles, third on the squad.)

Jim Musil, 6-5, 220, defensive lineman, Ravenna, Nebraska: "Jim's put on a lot of weight, and he's getting stronger. He was a real good high school wrestler at heavyweight, and they're (the coaches) looking for him to be a real good defensive lineman when he matures. He's got the frame to put on a lot more weight." (Musil had 15 tackles, two of those for losses.)

Steve Addison, 6-0, 192, defensive back, Littleton (Colorado) Arapaho: "He was a real good free safety for us. He came in and started at free safety all year." (Addison had 15 tackles, nine unassisted and two for losses.)

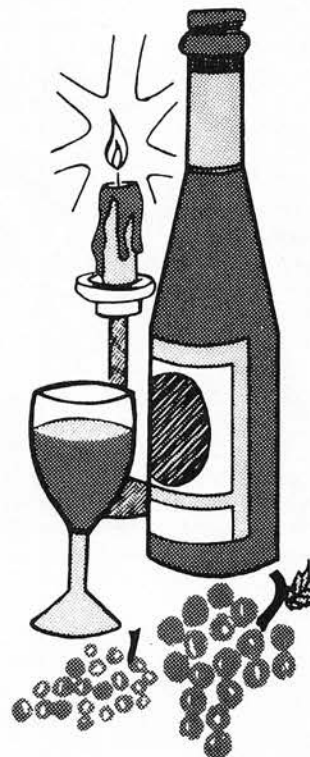
Lance Bobolz, 5-10, 175, I-back, Dorchester, Nebraska: "Lance was probably the fastest player on the team. He was a wingback at the start of the season. But they had so many injuries at the I-back position, and they wanted to get some more speed into the backfield. So they moved him there and he did a pretty good job." (Bobolz rushed 32 times for 177 yards and a TD in three games.)

Jim Gilbert, 6-1, 190, I-Back, Humboldt, Nebraska: "He was a real good player in high school. He set a scoring record. He's got good size, and if he works hard it's going to pay off for him." (Gilbert rushed 27 times for 124 yards and three touchdowns.)

Jerry Dunlap, 6-0, 185, quarterback, Ventura (California) Buena: "Each of those three quarterbacks has special qualities. There's not one who stands head and shoulders above the others. At least they didn't in freshmen ball." (Dunlap ran 10 times for 98 yards and a TD, and he threw 10 times, completing three for 39 yards, with one interception.)

Tom Janky, 6-0, 180, kicker, Grand Island (Nebraska) Northwest: "He did a good job for us as a kicker." (Janky kicked seven extra points and added a 45-yard field goal for the freshmen. He missed four field goal tries, but two of those were from beyond 50 yards.) ♦

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Ron Brown has his mind set on taking chances and giving chances.

As a defensive back for Brown University of the prestigious Ivy League in the late-1970s, Brown felt deep in his gut that he could ply his trade in the prestigious sports world of professional football. He knew that Ivy Leaguers did not often dominate the NFL. He understood clearly that even players from traditional collegiate powerhouses often flopped in pro ball. He saw the sheer numbers, the abundance of talented athletes and scarcity of professional job openings. Rejection loomed like a blitzing safety, staring across the line at anyone who dared try their luck at the big-play in big-time pro ball.

Brown didn't flinch. He took his chances. Five times over he tried out with professional teams but his career didn't take off. What matters most to him now is that he had a chance and gave it his best shot.

Today, as Nebraska's new receivers coach, Brown intends to give plenty of chances to the Huskers' talented crew of tight ends, split ends and wingbacks.

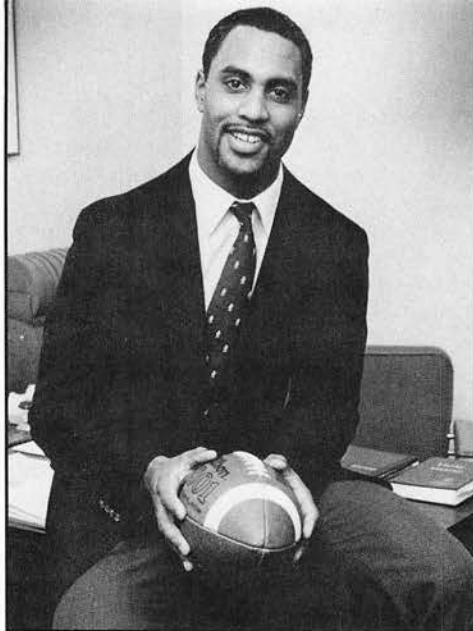
Brown assumed the job in early February after UNL veteran Gene Huey accepted the position of assistant head coach at Wyoming. One thing he left behind was plenty of depth and, realistically, Huey's personal likes and dislikes were reflected by who saw the most playing time in 1986.

With Brown, everyone starts from scratch and has an equal chance. All he asks for in return is that the players give him a chance, too. You see, this is his first shot at coaching receivers. Brown played safety well enough to be inducted into the school's Sports Hall of Fame. But after graduating and coaching the freshman team, he was named defensive backs coach.

"I'll have to learn receiver play," he says. "But I'll know how to study and read defensive backs. I'll have a good feel for their habits and coverage recognition should be easier."

He is realistic enough to know that his will be an intense and extra busy spring, what with learning names, faces and personalities, not to mention an entirely new football system. Brown hit the ground running when he became a Husker. Coach Tom Osborne gave him a crash course.

After accepting the job, Brown and his wife, Molvina, flew to Omaha, where Osborne met them at the airport. The next day saw Brown and Osborne visiting Omaha high schools.



Ron Brown

Profile of the Newest NU Coach

One day later, they were in New Orleans and Houston on recruiting trips. Brown said he will recruit primarily in Kansas and Missouri next year.

"I like to consider myself a well-rounded person," he says. "Brown was certainly good for me and good to me. But Nebraska will be good for me, too."

Brown University sits in Providence, Rhode Island, just an hour's drive from Boston. Just 5,200 undergraduates make up the student body. Academics top the priority list, and the entrance requirements are stiff.

"It has a New England flavor," he says. "There are a lot of cultural activities on a Saturday afternoon. It's not just football; you have to share time."

Numbers put the level of football interest in perspective. Brown said that 13,000 fans will turnout for an average game in Providence...if the weather is good.

Brown, born in New York City and raised in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, has a coaching philosophy that's very close to traditional Nebraska ideas. He asks seven things of his players and backs up every demand:

1. Physical and mental preparation. "You can't have one without the other and be a complete player."
2. Fundamentals. "Players have to be fundamentally sound. They have to catch, block and run good routes."
3. Understanding the game. "It's the little things, like knowing when to get

out of bounds."

4. Unity. "Receivers often share time, and they need to work together and realize they all can contribute."

5. Emotional strength. "This means not looking back on a play, whether it was a dropped pass or a touchdown. You have to go on."

6. Creativity. "Somehow, some way, you've got to find a way to get it done. It might be cold and snowing, you might be injured, but it makes winners."

7. Don't compare. "Play to your God-given potential. Divide what you achieve by what God gives you — that's success, not how you compare to someone else."

Brown's enthusiasm carries over into academics — and no less so. He received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Brown University. He earned a master's in health administration at Columbia University. At Brown, he not only coached, but coordinated a program stressing academic and athletic balance as the school's assistant athletic director.

Brown traveled to low income, inner-city public schools to give his message to high school athletes, parents, coaches and teachers.

"I'm a firm believer that a person can excel in both areas," he says. "There's no need to sacrifice one for the other. It's a question of budgeting time. Not everyone will be a Rhodes Scholar, but athletes should graduate as a bare minimum."

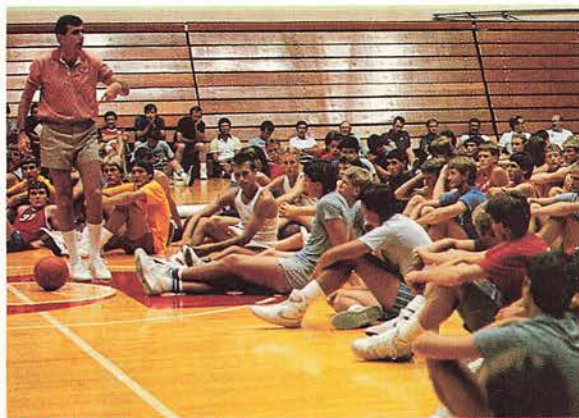
Brown won't have a formal academic position at Nebraska, but plans on taking an interest in all his players' academic progress.

"I wouldn't feel comfortable working with just any football program," he explains. "At Nebraska, I can tell a recruit's mom and dad that their son will be pushed to get a degree, and that he'll be treated like a human being."

When Brown isn't on the road, watching films or meeting with the coaching staff, he spends his leisure time much as he did back east. And Brown knows that he'll come to miss trips to Central Park and the scenic vineyards.

"I like to shoot baskets, read and play chess when I can find a partner," he says. "My wife and I are pretty simple people. We don't go out that often. We've noticed a freshness here in Lincoln. It's new for us and a little bit different from the east coast. But I'm sure we'll learn to love it."

"Coaching at Nebraska is a chance of a lifetime. We plan to make the most of it." ♦



1987 Nebraska Basketball School



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BOYS CAMP I (May 31-June 4)

For boys entering the fifth grade through boys entering their senior year in high school. All campers will be grouped according to their age and ability. Each day of camp will include instruction on individual offensive and defensive techniques, team concepts, and actual game competition.

BOYS TEAM CAMP I CLASS C2, D1 and D2 SCHOOLS (June 7-11)

This week is for class C2, D1 and D2 schools and only high school age boys can participate. Each school must have a minimum of 6 players (we recommend 8), and a member of the high school's basketball staff will coach the team during the week. Each team will have daily practice situations. There will be lecture periods conducted by the Nebraska Basketball Staff. Each school may bring more than one team and if a school would like to participate in the A, B, and C1 Camp, please feel free to do so (we recommend this if you have a talented group of players).

BOYS ELEMENTARY/JR HIGH DAY CAMP (June 15-18)

For boys entering the fourth grade through boys entering the ninth grade. There will be a morning and afternoon session with the noon meal being provided. This is a day camp and each camper must provide for his own lodging. The morning session will begin at 9 a.m. and the afternoon session will end at approximately 4:30 p.m. Instruction will be given on individual offensive and defensive techniques as well as team concepts. Each camper will play 3 or 4 games per day.

SPECIALTY CAMP: BIG MAN/SHOOTING (June 18-20)

The Husker Big Man's Camp designed for the inside player will concentrate on teaching moves such as the drop step power lunge, up and under move, the baby hook, the jump hook, and the bounce step jumper. In addition, drills to improve agility, foot quickness, and jumping ability will be stressed to improve rebounding technique.

The Husker Shooting will emphasize individual instruction with fundamental skills of shooting. The power lay up, the hook shot, and the jump shot will be stressed. Fundamental emphasis will be on offensive moves without the basketball, footwork for shooting quickly and efficiently, proper alignment of hand, wrist, and arm, development of proper arc, increasing range, and shooting off the dribble or off of a screen. Video analysis will be used to assist development of proper shooting technique.

BOYS TEAM CAMP II CLASS A, B, C1 SCHOOLS (June 21-25)

This week is for Class A, B, and C1 schools and only high school age boys can participate. Each school must have a minimum of 6 players (we recommend 8), and a member of the high school's basketball staff will coach the team during the week. There will be lecture periods conducted by the Nebraska Basketball Staff. Each school may bring more than one team and we do allow Class A, B, and C1 schools to enter their sophomore or junior varsity teams in our Class C2, D1 and D2 team camp.

BOYS CAMP II (June 28-July 2)

For boys entering the fifth grade through boys entering their senior year in high school. All campers will be grouped according to their age and ability. Each day of camp will include instruction on individual offensive and defensive techniques, team concepts, and actual game competition.

For More Information Please Contact:
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☐ June 18-20 (Big Man Shooting)
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 (Class A, B, and C1 Team Camp)

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We, (or) I, hereby request that you accept the application for enrollment of _____ in the 1987 Nebraska Basketball School during dates set forth in this application, and in consideration of your acceptance of the application we (or I) (whether one or more) hereby release the Nebraska Basketball School and the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska and all their employees and agents from all claims on account of any injuries which may be sustained by our (or my) son while attending the 1987 Nebraska Basketball School, and its employees and agents for any claim which may hereafter be presented by our (or 'my) minor son as a result of any such injuries.

 Parent's Signature

 Phone

 Date

Miles and miles of racing were behind them. But two miles remained: the men's and women's mile relays.

What would happen if Nebraska didn't win those mile relays in the Big Eight Indoor Track Championships? On the women's side, Kansas State was still poised to end a seven-year reign that the Lady Huskers held on the indoor team title. Nebraska's women had won every single indoor and outdoor conference meet in the 1980s. That's 14 straight Big Eight crowns. If UNL dropped the baton or fouled, it would be over, and K-State could steal the title. An indoor sweep was within Nebraska's grasp because the Husker men had their team title wrapped up. The only previous indoor sweep in league history belonged to Coach Gary Pepin's 1985 team.

Most of all, Pepin maintained the true measure of his athletes would come in this meet, not the NCAA championship two weeks later in Oklahoma City. "Because of qualifying criteria and meet scoring, the NCAA

team title is usually won by a school with a few great individuals," Pepin has always insisted. "A better judge of our entire team strength is how we do in the conference meet."

It was a matter of personal opinion, but the last two races of the Big Eight meet would make or break Nebraska's season.

The operative word was "break." As in "heart," "sound barrier" and "records." The women's team of Michelle Milling, Belvia Moody, Beth Webster and anchor Linetta Wilson zipped to a Big Eight record in the mile relay with a time of 3:42.71, which beat the old mark (held by the 1986 UNL team) by over two seconds. K-State, 60 yards behind at the finish, limped in eight seconds later with fourth place.

The sweep was secured.

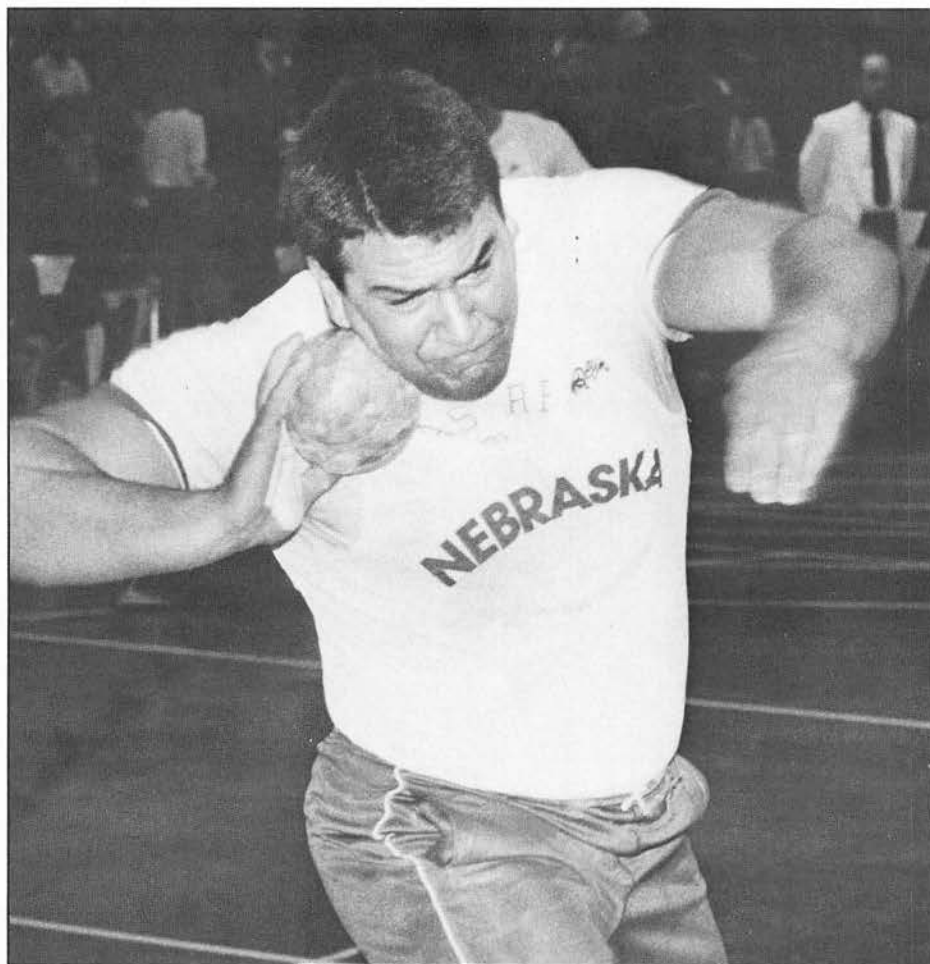
What remained at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in early March was pure over-indulgence. With both 1987 titles in hand, Nebraska's last challenge was to atone for an embarrassing seventh place finish in the 1986

men's mile relay. A talented Oklahoma relay squad was favored to win, but Nebraska was loosey-goosey — nothing to lose and everything to gain. The crowd of 5,000 was borderline bonkers after the women's mile relay victory. Without even setting foot on the track, the Husker men's team was already experiencing their "runner's high."

A lickety-split 3:14.85 later, the Four Huskerteers of Craig Aiken, Robert Gonzalez, Regis Humphrey and anchor Terry Goods shared their own personal "runner's high" with the insanely partisan crowd by winning the Big Eight men's mile relay.

When the smoke cleared, the Husker men's team had won the Big Eight Indoor Championship with 118 points, followed by Oklahoma 87, Kansas State 80, Kansas 61, Colorado 49, Iowa State 49, Oklahoma State 44 and Missouri 39.

On the women's side, Nebraska triumphed with 123 points, followed by Kansas State 111, Kansas 70, Iowa



Huskers Double In Big Eight Indoor Track

Kent Wells took second in the Big Eight shot put competition.

State 68, Missouri 54, Oklahoma State 40, Oklahoma 36 and Colorado 25.

In addition to team success, Nebraska fielded several individual stars.

First the men's side. Jean Verster won twice — the 1,000 (all distances in yards) and mile run. He had been the dominant Big Eight runner at those distances throughout the indoor season, and Verster continued that role at championship time as he won both events handily.

He was clearly a crowd favorite, too. Having won the mile at 1:50 p.m. Saturday, he returned barely an hour later to speed away with the 1,000 to the crowd's roaring approval.

Otherwise, Nebraska enjoyed well-balanced individual success. Seven other Huskers won individual medals, but none were double-placers.

The honor roll included:

Bob Jelks, who won the 300, set a personal best of 30:07 as he outdueled rival John Williams of K-State.

Regis Humphrey also set a personal best while winning the 880 in what was a shocker because he had seldom run that event this indoor season. Because he had won the 1985 and 1986 outdoor conference title in the 800 meters, however, it wasn't *that* shocking; definitely a pleasant surprise.

Terry Goods made it a one-two finish in the 880, and he posted his best time on the season (1:52.52).

Bill Trott completed a double-double, placing second in two events — the 60 and the long jump.

Kent Wells heaved the shot put over 57-2 to place second behind long-time conference power Ed Wade of Oklahoma. With Wade graduating this year, Wells, a sophomore, should be favored to win the crown for a couple of years.

Robert Gonzalez finished third in the 600, where Missouri's John Okoye startled knowledgeable track fans with a strong second-place finish. Until the finals, Gonzalez and Chris McGowon (who won the gold) of Oklahoma State dominated this event, with the Husker star winning the meet prelims.

James Morris, a freshman, took third in the triple jump with a leap of over 50'3".

On the women's side, Wilson was named the top performer of the meet. She won only one event, but it was spectacular. In the 440, she posted a :53.02 to break the collegiate record.

Continued on page 42

Linetta Wilson set record after record in the 500-meter-dash as she returned to Lincoln as Nebraska's top performer in the 1987 NCAA Indoor Championships, hosted March 13-14 in Oklahoma City.

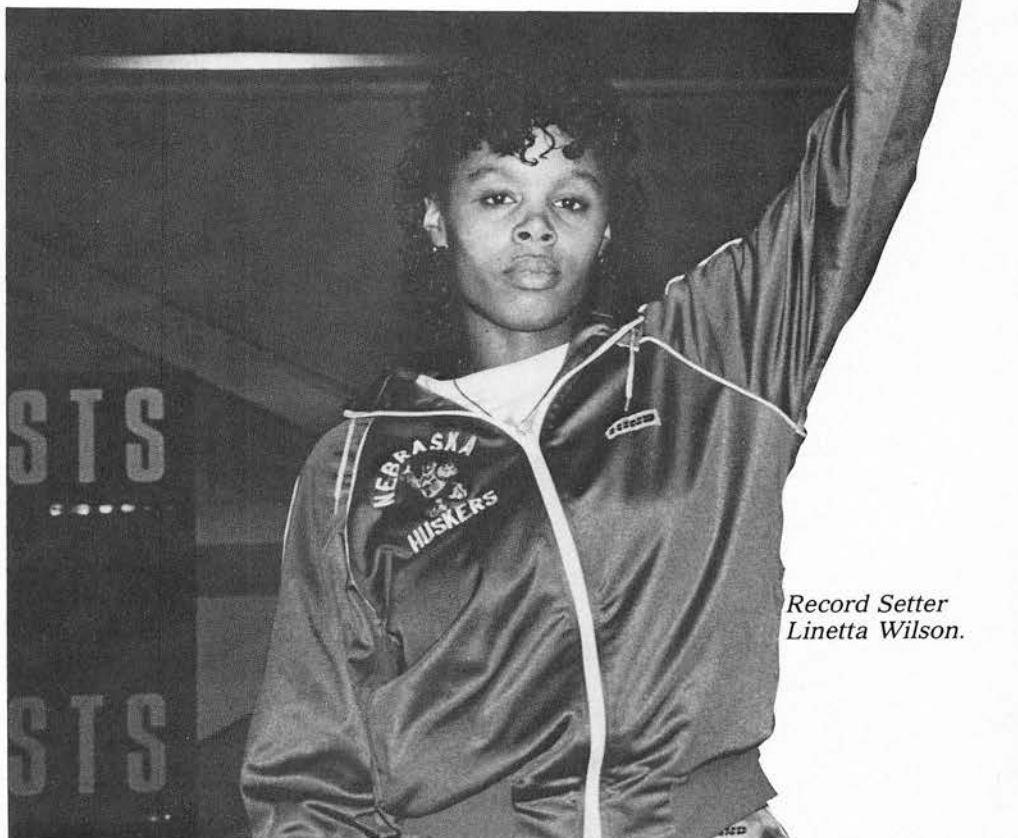
She won the 500 finals with a time of 1:08.89, which was a new American, collegiate and NCAA meet record. In fact, she set broke the collegiate record one day earlier in her qualifying heat when her 1:09.00 time thrust her into the favorite's role. Her time in the finals was only .03 of a second off the world record.

Wilson also was a member of Nebraska's 1600-meter relay team which placed second to Louisiana State. The LSU team set an American and collegiate record, and Nebraska's 3:35.85 time also eclipsed the old mark.

Overall, the Husker women's team placed sixth in team competition with 20 points. LSU won the women's team title with 49 points to outdistance runner-up Tennessee with 30.

Only a sophomore, Wilson dramatically improved her 1986 NCAA performance when she finished fifth in the 500. Her best 500 time last season was 1:11.29, and in 12 months she has lowered that by almost two and a half seconds.

On the men's side, Nebraska's 3200-meter relay team placed fifth (7:21.14), and the Huskers' finish tied for 48th as Arkansas won's its fourth straight NCAA Indoor title.



*Record Setter
Linetta Wilson.*

It's bound to happen.

No matter the school, no matter the location, no matter how successful the gridiron program, it's bound to happen. It's just a matter of percentages.

If one picked 22 pecans, chances are, some would be lost for a number of reasons. Just as if one nurtured 22 cattle, chances are, some would never be fit for slaughter.

The gist is equally clear when substituting scholarship athletes for pecans or cattle. Attrition takes a heavy toll on recruiting classes on campuses all over the country each year.

Of the 22 players Nebraska signed to letters-of-intent this season, a certainty exists that a majority will be tripped up by the treacherous pitfalls lacing the path from entrance to and graduation from the University.

"There are many things that come up," admits NU assistant coach Frank Solich. "Personal problems, eligibility problems — things like that will happen and hinder a player from making

it."

An extreme example of such problems was evident in the recruiting class of 1982. Never before had so many members of a University of Nebraska football recruiting class been lost for such a variety of reasons. Of the 28 players recruited and signed, only 13 ever started, played backup roles or lettered.

"That was unusual," said academic counselor Steve Uryasz of the plight of the '82 recruiting class. "There's really no way to predict whether these kids will stay with us for two or five years, but that was a rarity."

Indeed it was.

Until the 1985 haul, the '82 crop was considered by many to be the best ever at Nebraska. So certainly there wasn't any question concerning athletic ability.

Sometimes, however, ability is not a measure as to whether one will or will not make it through his collegiate career.

Of the 15 players from the 1982 re-

cruiting class who didn't last over the long haul, three were given medical scholarships because of injury, four were lost to grade problems and eight transferred to other institutions.

"I think you would expect all of the players you recruit to make it throughout their time," said Solich. "During the recruiting process, you evaluate them not only as athletes, but people. We try to recruit players we feel are interested in getting an educa-

Keeping As Tough

Charting The Class

The University of Nebraska recruiting class of '82 is an example, although extreme, of how attrition can take its toll on a football team. The Huskers signed 28 players to national letters-of-intent that season. The following recaps what transpired following each player signing a letter-of-intent with Nebraska.

Joe Augustyne, tight end/defensive end, Emporia, Kansas: Transferred to University of Nebraska, Omaha.

Kevin Biggers, defensive back, Mt. San Antonio, California: Junior college transfer who saw considerable playing time before using up his eligibility.

Kevin Blackmer, outside linebacker/defensive line, Minneapolis, Minnesota: Transferred.

Bob Bowen, tight end/defensive end, Omaha: Transferred.

Todd Carpenter, outside linebacker/defensive line, Grand Island: Dropped out due to grades.

Charlie Cartwright, defensive back, Olathe, Kansas: Dropped out due to personal problems.

Dan Casterline, fullback/defensive back, Evergreen, Colorado: Two-year letterman; plagued by hamstring problems.

Chad Daffer, linebacker, Nebraska City: Starting weak-side linebacker on freshman squad in '82.

Don Douglas, quarterback, Butte, Montana: Transferred.

Jimmy Drayton, defensive back, Elizabeth, New Jersey: Transferred due to grade problems.

Doug DuBose, running back, Uncasville, Connecticut: Two-time All-Big Eight running back; injured senior season, should be high draft choice.

Pernell Gatson, quarterback, Omaha: Knee injury ruined NU career; medical scholarship.

Lawrence Hart Jr., Cottage Grove, Minnesota: Transferred.

Mike Hoefler, quarterback/defensive end, Norfolk: Three-year letterman; backup guard.

Tony Holloway, linebacker/defensive end, Bellevue: Three-year letterman; two-year starter at defensive end.

Thurman Hoskins, running back, Turney, Missouri: Dropped out due to grade problems.

Brad Johnson, offensive tackle, Ralston: Two-year letterman; saw action as a backup.

Andre Lambert, split end, Las Vegas, Nevada: Dropped out due to grade problems.

Albert Lewis, I-back/fullback, Las Vegas, Nevada: Dropped out due to grade problems.

Rob Maggard, offensive line/defensive line, Olathe, Kansas: Starting left tackle senior season; second team All-Big Eight; academic All-Big Eight.

Todd Olson, offensive line/linebacker, Grand Island: Quit squad.

Stan Parker, tight end/defensive end, Bellevue: Part-time starter in '85; full-time starter in '86; co-captain; second team All-Big Eight; honorable mention All-American — AP.

Philip Rogers, offensive line/defensive line, Tucson, Arizona: Knee injury ended NU career; medical scholarship.

Bryan Siebler, wingback/defensive back, Fremont: Three-year letterman; part-time starter in '85; full-time starter in '86 (career-high 15 tackles versus Oklahoma).

Chris Spachman, defensive line, Kansas City, Kansas: Three-year letterman; two-year starter defensive left tackle; co-captain; All-Big Eight — AP.

Jeff Tomjack, defensive back, Ewing: Two-year letterman; part-time starter in '85; backup strong safety in '86.

Brad Tyrer, defensive end, Kansas City, Missouri: Two-year letterman; split time with Holloway at defensive end in '86.

Tom Welter, offensive line/defensive line, Yankton, South Dakota: Three-year letterman; academic All-Big Eight; academic All-American; consensus All-Big Eight; third-team All-American.

tion."

Sometimes, though, a player's interest and his capabilities are miles apart. "There's a great amount of time that has to be devoted to academics," Uryasz assured. "A guy has to be prepared for that when he comes into school. Students who aren't prepared have a hard time." And those who have a hard time eventually end up leaving school."

It happens, not only at Nebraska,

justment academically.

"Our goals are to graduate 100 percent of our players," said Uryasz. "But that may not be realistic. We would like to see 90 percent or above and I think we're somewhere in that neighborhood."

Included in that mark are players who have been sidelined due to injuries and placed on medical scholarship.

What most schools would rather

rehabilitate him. We had him on a medical scholarship but his career in football was in doubt."

"We work real closely with those guys," Uryasz pointed out. "There's a certain amount of adjustment an athlete has to go through. It's tough to face the realization of never playing again. We have meetings with them frequently. They're not treated any different from anybody else. They have access to everything the normal athlete would have access to."

Such a commitment not only fulfills NU's end of an obligation, it also gives players incentive to continue.

Keeping a player interested is not always easy.

Sometimes, down right homesickness can divert a player's attention to the extent he'd consider transferring. "That has never been a major problem with us," confessed Solich. "We recruit all over the country and we have players from great distances. It's something that hampers players for a while, but they get over it. And when they do, there's no problem. We've had an excellent retention ratio. We've had very little problem with people leaving because of homesickness."

Yet, athletes have left on occasion for many reasons and the Nebraska athletic staff is in the process of contacting these players to find out why. "We're trying to get in touch with every guy and find out why he didn't continue," said Husker assistant John Melton. "We're trying to find out how many hours they need to get their degrees and try to encourage them to go back to school and get them."

NU will go back as far as 1973 to find these former players. "We're working on it right now," said Melton.

Many of those players were scholarship athletes like Gatson and others in the recruiting class of '82. For many major colleges, losing such highly-touted players would be a devastating blow. But for NU, the strength of its heralded walkon program helps compensate for those losses.

"The production of our walkon program is more beneficial than what we lose," said Melton. "We've turned out some great players in our walkon program. Some of those guys have gone on to become All-Americans."

Because Nebraska generally tries to save a healthy portion of available scholarships for walkons, the decrease in scholarships from 30-25 will hurt slightly.

"We'll lose a very small percentage," confessed Melton. "We would like to have 30. And if they gave us 30, we'd like to have 35. But we can survive on 25." ♦

The Good Ones Often As Recruiting Them

Grades, injuries and assorted problems take a toll on even the bluest of blue chippers once they enter the college arena.

By Kevin Jeffrey

but other schools as well. In 1981 for instance, Oklahoma recruited several outstanding athletes.

Lawrence Hardin was a member of that class. He was considered the nation's premiere defensive back at that time. Hardin suffered football burn-out and left school.

Running back Freddie Sims, also from that '81 class, was one of the top backs out of high school. Yet Sims never completed his eligibility, nor did he graduate from college; neither did Alvin Ross, Greg Sims, Keith Stanberry, Elbert Watts, Donald Brown or Kelvin White and at least 10 others.

Losing key members of a class like that is damaging, but one has to understand that participating in sports and going to school is not easy.

The demands on a student-athlete's time make school a tough venture. It is estimated that only 47 percent of the male students on any campus graduate. For a student-athlete, toss in practice time, games, travel, etc., and it's not hard to see why some players have difficulty making the ad-

do is run them off," assessed veteran NU trainer George Sullivan. "But when they come here, they have an opportunity to get their education no matter what happens."

According to Sullivan, several athletes presently are in danger of having their football careers ended due to disabling injuries.

"I suppose it averages out to about two a year," he said. Sullivan has the unenviable task of discussing with the athlete his future after serious injury.

"It's a long discussion. I try to tell them the pros and cons of participating with the injury, and on occasion, talk to them about resetting their goals in life. In such instances, Nebraska picks up the bill for the education and the athletes are treated as if they were still contributors.

Former NU receiver Pernell Gatson is a classic example of an injured athlete still contributing. Gatson suffered a severe knee injury in high school and never fully recovered before signing with NU. Gatson was placed on medical scholarship.

"It was a situation where we had to

Track

Continued from page 39

Wilson beat the old school record by more than a second, thereby dethroning Merlene Ottey, who starred as a Nebraska collegiate, international and Olympic sprinter in the mid-1980s. Also, Wilson anchored the gold-medal mile relay team. But that was about all. That was enough.

"To say the least, the place went nuts when Linetta broke the 440 record," Pepin said, allowing himself a moment of reflective satisfaction.

The rest of the honor roll included:

Michelle Milling, who won the 600 and placed third in the 300.

Rentia Robinson set a Big Eight record in the triple jump with a leap of over 41'10" to win her event by more than a foot.

Tammy Thurman took the high jump by soaring 6'1½", good enough to tie the Big Eight record.

Karen Kruger was Nebraska's only second-place finisher as she duplicated the double-double trick: she was runner-up in the 60 and long jump. In both events, Kruger finished second to Lorinda Richardson of Missouri.

Toya Barnes continued Nebraska's strong effort in field events by placing third in the shot put with a throw of almost 49 feet.

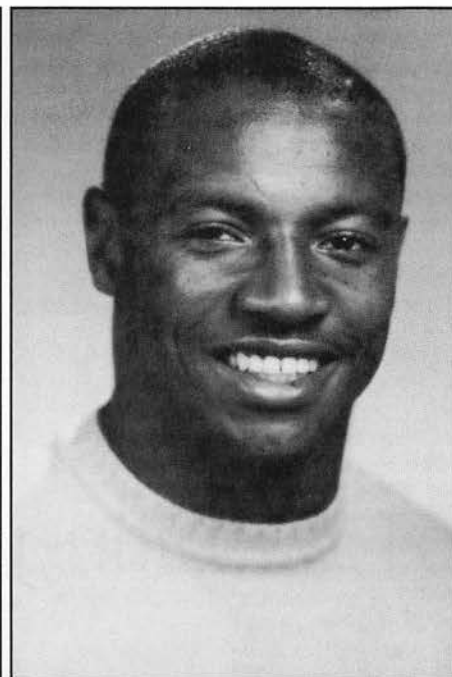
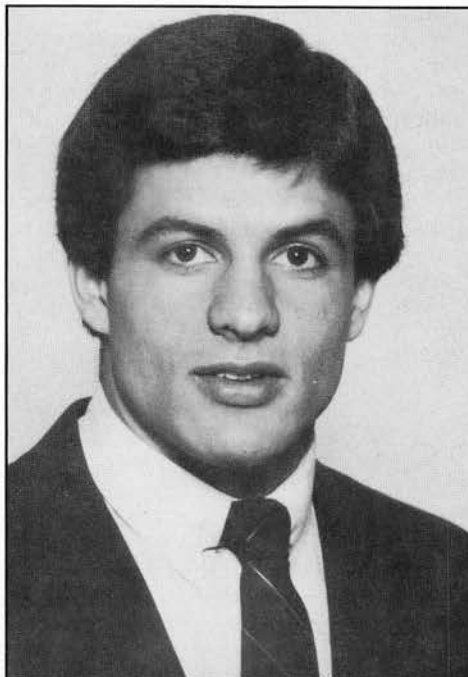
Kim Guthrie, only a freshman, finished third in the long jump with a leap of over 19'5".

Also, Nebraska scored big points with the winning two-mile relay team of Laura Wright, Heidi Christiansen, Juliet Prowse and anchor Sharon Powell.

The future looks bright for Nebraska's women as each of their individual medal winners will return next season.

For the men, only Verster is running short of eligibility. He will be able to compete in next year's indoor season, but will technically complete his senior year of outdoor competition this spring.

Also putting in a busy indoor season were a handful of football players, including sprinters Terry Rodgers and Keith Jones. With the arrival of Trott, however, the speedy footballers found themselves playing second fiddle. Jones, for example, won the 1985 Big Eight 60-yard dash, but posted only the fourth fastest 60 time this season. Rodgers eventually placed sixth in the championship finals with a time of :06.31 (his best for the season was :06.30). Jones, still recovering from recent football injuries, posted a season best of :06.40, a shade slower than his career low of :06.23. ♦



Jeff Tomjack (left) and Brian Washington (right) give the Huskers two veteran strong safeties.

Spring

Continued from page 16

should be intense.

Strengths: Speed, athletic ability, muscular strength.

Weaknesses: Depth, pass coverage and, in the case of Wiley, inexperience.

Strong-Side Linebacker — Position Rating: A-

This slot is on the verge of exploding, and Huskers shouldn't notice much of a dropoff even though there are no returning starters.

Key Loss: Senior Kevin Parsons, a four-year letterman.

Challengers: Sophomore LeRoy Etienne (6-1, 230) appears to be on direct course to stardom after registering 38 tackles as a reserve in 1986. He was a *Parade* All-American in high school and was named the Louisiana prep Player of the Year two times. Etienne was selected last fall as a second-teamer on the *Football News* sophomore All-American team. He runs a cool 4.8 in the 40-yard dash. Also fighting for playing time will be junior Doug Welniak (5-11, 220) and sophomore Randy Jobman (6-3, 225).

Strengths: Speed, experience, athletic ability.

Weaknesses: Depth, pass coverage.

Left Cornerback — Position Rating: B-

Inexperience could cause a problem here with a few injuries to the wrong people. Coaches are optimistic, though, that the left corner slot has plenty of potential and, because of youth, should improve throughout 1987.

Key Losses: Senior Brian Davis, who was second-team All-Big Eight and a two-year letterman, plus senior Bill Settles.

Challengers: Redshirt sophomore John Custard (5-9, 175) started two games in 1986 and played often as an alternate. He has the first crack at starting this spring. He has dramatically improved during his three years at Nebraska by increasing his bench press to almost 300 pounds and lowering his time (4.64) in the 40-yard dash. He'll be pursued by a couple of inexperienced but talented athletes. Junior McCathorn Clayton (6-0, 190) played quarterback until this spring and hasn't been on the defensive side of the ball since high school. Still, he possesses the right tools with 4.64 speed and a 340-pound bench press. He will get a very close look this spring. Also under close inspection will be true freshman Robert Hicks, who started on the 1986 JV team and registered 14 total tackles.

Strengths: Speed, mental toughness.

Weaknesses: Inexperience, but depth to a greater extent, especially at the backup positions.

Right Cornerback —

Position Rating: A-

There's a good chance the Huskers will be improved at this position compared to 1986. The returning talent is solid and more help should be forthcoming from the reserves.

Key Loss: Senior Cleo Miller, who was a two-year letterman and alternate in 1986.

Challengers: Sophomore Charles Fryar (5-10, 170) is the returning starter and should be poised to make a run at post-season honors next year. He led the secondary with 52 tackles in '86 and should get even better as his jolting tackles start to draw attention throughout the league. The clear-cut alternate should be sophomore Lorenzo Hicks (5-11, 195), who lettered last season while getting some varsity playing time. Others in the hunt will be redshirt sophomore Jay Shield and freshman Jon Crippen who played on the JV team.

Strengths: Speed, aggressiveness, good run-pass balance, adequate depth.

Weakness: Inexperience could be a stumbling block further down the depth chart.

Strong Safety —

Position Rating: B+

Strong safety is a bullet on the rise, with the potential to grade out even higher. Should be a solid one-two punch here.

Key Loss: Senior Gary Schneider, a four-time letterman and alternate in 1986.

Challengers: Junior Brian Washington (6-1, 220) finished 1986 with a flurry and was recognized as one of the most improved defensive players on the team. At the first of the year, he split starting time with junior Jeff Tomjack (6-1, 205) but went on to play well against Oklahoma and had a field day against LSU in the Sugar Bowl. Based on momentum, Washington will have the advantage this spring. If his improvement stays on course, he could evolve into a dominating player in '87. Tomjack has tons of experience, too, and should perform admirably. Both recorded 18 total tackles last season. Redshirt sophomore Marvin Sanders (6-1, 185) has 4.5 speed and was a terror in the 1985 JV season when he posted 21 total tackles.

Strengths: Experience, size, speed, athletic ability.

Weakness: Depth is needed after the top two slots.

Free Safety — Position Rating: B

Varsity experience is definitely in short supply here, but pure physical ability may overcome that. Like most secondary spots this spring, free

safety appears solid at the least and plenty of potential to get better as new faces get repetition.

Key Losses: Senior Bryan Siebler, a three-year letterman and two-year starter, plus senior Dan Thayer, a two-year letterman and alternate in 1986.

Challengers: Sophomore Mark Blazek (6-0, 200) served as the No. 1 reserve behind Siebler last season and has the early lead for starting honors. His is a remarkable rags-to-riches story as he did not even start for the JV team two years ago, then leapfrogged from No. 7 on the free safety depth chart to No. 2 last spring. Blazek could be pressed by Coffeyville (Kansas) JUCO transfer Tim Jackson, who has the athletic ability



Micah Heibel will be a key performer at fullback.

to play any position in the secondary. Look for him to be a factor somewhere and possibly a starter. Another new face is sophomore Wendell Wooten (6-1, 200) who is making the move this spring from quarterback to safety where he practiced for much of the fall of '86. If the new kids on the block adjust quickly, they could give Blazek a run for his money.

Strengths: Athletic ability and speed, especially concerning Jackson and Wooten.

Weakness: Varsity inexperience.

Observation: If players such as Jackson, Wooten and Clayton adjust quickly, the problem of depth within the secondary could be greatly re-

duced.

Left End — Position Rating: A

With Broderick Thomas healthy, Nebraska should dominate the entire right side of the opponent's offensive line.

Key Loss: None, except that 1986 alternate Jeff Jamrog will be moved to the right end slot.

Challengers: Sophomore Thomas (6-2, 235) was consensus All-Big Eight and will be unchallenged for the starting slot. The key for his spring will be to continue improving after an outstanding season: 58 total tackles, six fumble recoveries and one touchdown. Competition should be keen, though, for the backup spot from sophomore Jon Marco (6-1, 230) and redshirt sophomore Steve Stanard (6-0, 215) who has outstanding speed (4.6). Marco saw considerable playing time in '86, mostly as a madman special teams player.

Strengths: Range, speed, dominant starter.

Weakness: Inexperience in backup positions.

Right End — Position Rating: B

The opposite side appears solid with a blend of veteran players and true freshmen making up the top three spots. There will be plenty of physical, aggressive players here to potentially make defensive end one of Nebraska's highlights.

Key Losses: Senior Tony Holloway and senior Brad Tyrer, both of whom were three-year lettermen and co-starters.

Challengers: Junior Jeff Jamrog (6-2, 225) looks to take command. He logged considerable playing time at left end last year as Thomas' alternate and finished with 22 total tackles. He will be supported by a pair of true freshmen: Kenny Walker (6-4, 215) and Jeff Mills (6-4, 215). Both played extensively on the 1986 JV team with Walker making 26 tackles and Mills registering 20 stops. Both have tremendous physical tools and will be spending a lot of time with assistant coach Tony Samuel to polish their technique during spring drills. The key at this position will be to get in as much repetition as possible and groom the rookies for varsity playing time.

Strengths: Speed, range, physical tools, aggressiveness.

Weakness: Inexperience in the back-up positions.

Punter — Position Rating: B-

Sophomore John Kroeker returns after punting for a 39.8 average in 1986 and should be more than adequate if he can shake the inconsistency that surfaced late in the season. ♦

Pre-Spring 1987 Two-Deep

(With 1986 Classification)

Lettermen Returning—45 (23 offense, 21 defense, 1 kicking specialist)

Lettermen Lost—29 (14 offense, 14 defense, 1 kicking specialist). *Returning Starters in ALL CAPS*

*Denotes Letters Earned

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACK

STEVE TAYLOR** 5-11, 190, so.
Clete Blakeman** 6-0, 185, jr.

I-BACK

KEITH JONES*** 5-10, 190, jr.
Tyreese Knox* 5-10, 215, so.

FULLBACK

Micah Heibel* 6-1, 225, jr.
Doug Dalton* 5-9, 220, so.

WINGBACK

DANA BRINSON** 5-9, 170, so.
Jamie Worden 5-10, 175, fr.

TIGHT END

TOM BANDERAS** 6-3, 240, jr.
Todd Millikan** 6-2, 235, so.

SPLIT END

ROD SMITH** 6-2, 195, jr.
Hendley Hawkins** 5-10, 185, jr.

LEFT TACKLE

Bob Sledge* 6-2, 270, so.
Bill Bobbora 6-3, 260, fr.

LEFT GUARD

Andy Keeler* 6-3, 265, so.
Jake Young* 6-5, 250, fr.

CENTER

John Nichols* 6-2, 265, jr.
Jeff Anderson 6-3, 265, so.

RIGHT GUARD

JOHN McCORMICK** 6-2, 270, jr.
John Roschal 6-3, 260, fr.

RIGHT TACKLE

Keven Lightner** 6-1, 285, jr.
John Nelson 6-0, 275, so.

PLACEKICKER

Chris Drennan 5-9, 170, fr.
Craig Schnitzler 5-7, 210, jr.

DEFENSE

LEFT END

BRODERICK THOMAS** 6-2, 235, so.
Jon Marco* 6-1, 230, so.

LEFT TACKLE

Neil Smith** 6-6, 255, jr.
Ray Valladao 6-3, 250, fr.

NOSE GUARD

Lawrence Pete** 6-2, 260, so.
Sean Putnam* 6-3, 270, so.

RIGHT TACKLE

LEE JONES** 6-1, 245, jr.
Tim Rother* 6-6, 250, jr.

RIGHT END

Jeff Jamrog** 6-1, 220, jr.
Jeff Mills 6-3, 220, fr.

WEAK-SIDE LINEBACKER

Steve Forch** 6-2, 240, jr.
Dante Wiley* 6-2, 215, so.

STRONG-SIDE LINEBACKER

LeRoy Etienne** 6-0, 225, so.
Randy Jobman 6-3, 25, so.

LEFT CORNERBACK

John Custard* 5-8, 170, so.
McCathorn Clayton** 6-0, 185, jr.

RIGHT CORNERBACK

CHARLES FRYAR* 5-10, 170, so.
Lorenzo Hicks* 5-11, 185, so.

STRONG SAFETY

BRIAN WASHINGTON*** 6-1, 220, jr.
Jeff Tomjack* 6-0, 210, jr.

FREE SAFETY

Mark Blazek* 6-2, 200, so.
Wendell Wooten* 6-1, 200, so.

PUNTER

JOHN KROEKER* 5-11, 175, so.
Jim Toner 6-0, 185, jr.

1987 Schedule

September 5
September 12
Sept. 26
October 3
October 10
October 17
October 24
October 31
November 7
November 14
November 21

Utah State
UCLA
at Arizona State
South Carolina
Kansas
at Oklahoma State
Kansas State
at Missouri
Iowa State
at Colorado
Oklahoma

1987 BIG RED FOOTBALL SCHOOL

Featuring Husker Head Coach, **TOM OSBORNE**
And The Entire Nebraska Coaching Staff!

----- APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT AND PARENTS' RELEASE -----

We wish to enroll in the 1987 Big Red Football School (Please indicate which session):
Enclosed is a check for \$60 as a deposit, the balance of \$65 to be paid upon arrival at the school.

- ☐ 1ST SESSION
June 3-6
☐ 2ND SESSION
June 7-10
☐ 3RD SESSION
June 10-13

Name _____ Address _____ Grade (Fall, 1987) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Age _____ Ht. _____ Wt. _____

Telephone () _____ Will Stay in Dorm: _____ At Home: _____

School _____ List Offensive Position _____ /and Defensive Position _____

TO: BIG RED FOOTBALL SCHOOL—PARENTS' RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

We (or I) hereby request that you accept the application for enrollment of _____
in the Big Red Football School during the dates set forth in this application, and in consideration of your acceptance of the application, we will (or I) (whether one or more) hereby release the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, and all of its employees from all claims on account of any injuries which may be sustained by our (or my) son while attending the Big Red Football School; and we (or I) agree to indemnify the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska and its employees for any claim which may hereafter be presented by our (or my) son as a result of any such injuries. If medical attention is required for injury or illness while in camp, I give my permission for such medical care. We also grant permission for the Big Red football school to use photographs of our son for publicity, advertising, or other commercial purposes.

Signed (Parent) _____ (Parent) _____ Date _____

TO: THE BIG RED FOOTBALL SCHOOL—MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that _____ is physically fit to participate in an active football school and that I know of no physical impairments which would in any manner limit his participation in such a program.

M.D. _____ Date _____
APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT A DOCTOR'S SIGNATURE.
(A copy of 1986 school physical will be accepted.)

MAIL TO: BIG RED FOOTBALL SCHOOL, 217 South Stadium Office Building, Lincoln, NE 68588. Make checks payable to BIG RED FOOTBALL SCHOOL. If additional copies are needed, please duplicate.

NOTE: Each session is limited. Get your application in early.



Coach Osborne demonstrates a ball-handling technique at the 1986 Big Red Football School

Ask Tom Osborne



campus because they are still believing all the great stories about themselves and haven't adjusted to being just another player. Do you think this will be a problem next fall and do you regularly "unrecruit" players when they get on campus? Gordy Matson, Englewood, California

A: "What you have to remember is that the stories a high school player reads are only a small part of what he hears during recruiting. His high school coach is going to be a big influence on how the young man responds to the whole recruiting process, and hopefully his coach has done a pretty good job of honestly and frankly evaluating his player's talent.

"When we talk with a prospective athlete we really try to be as upfront as possible and explain fairly clearly what the program at Nebraska is all about so there aren't any misunderstandings. A player's going to respect that honesty. We try to make sure they understand we wouldn't be recruiting them if they weren't the kind of student-athlete we felt would succeed at Nebraska, and we also do the best we can to explain that we will give him a fair chance to prove himself. But it's very, very important to be realistic with a young man. There just aren't very many freshmen and, really, even sophomores who come to a major college football team and become star players that early.

"We like to think that by the time a player comes to the Nebraska campus the fall of his freshmen year that he has a fairly good feel for what's going to happen on the football field and in the classroom. It simply isn't easy, and you would be misleading a prospect if you gave him the wrong impression."

Q: How do you talk with your players about all this national championship talk that has come up just since the end of the season? It just scares me to think about the players getting over-confident, like what happened at Colorado. I mean, we need to beat Oklahoma before we can claim to be No. 1, which I would like to see anyway. Did the 1983 team feel a lot of pressure about winning the national championship? Tom Morris, Grand Island, Nebraska

A: "Well, I really can't say that I've heard a whole lot of our players say-

ing things that you would call surprising when you have good athletes who are competitive. You'd naturally like to see them with a lot of enthusiasm and confidence in themselves. I think we have a decent chance next year of living up to the standards that have been set here at Nebraska, and I certainly wouldn't want to try to dampen the players' enthusiasm. As coaches, we don't try to hide from the fact that we have a great tradition here. It's certainly a point of pride that Nebraska has consistently been one of the top programs in the country. But putting yourself in position to win a national championship takes a lot of hard work and it will start this spring. You can't just talk about it. You have to prove it on the field, and that takes a pretty dedicated effort and a lot of hard work. I feel fairly sure our players understand this.

"We'll have a very difficult schedule next year, but there'll be plenty of chances to prove just how good we are. I have no problem this year, or any year, with our players expressing their confidence in the team and the team's success."

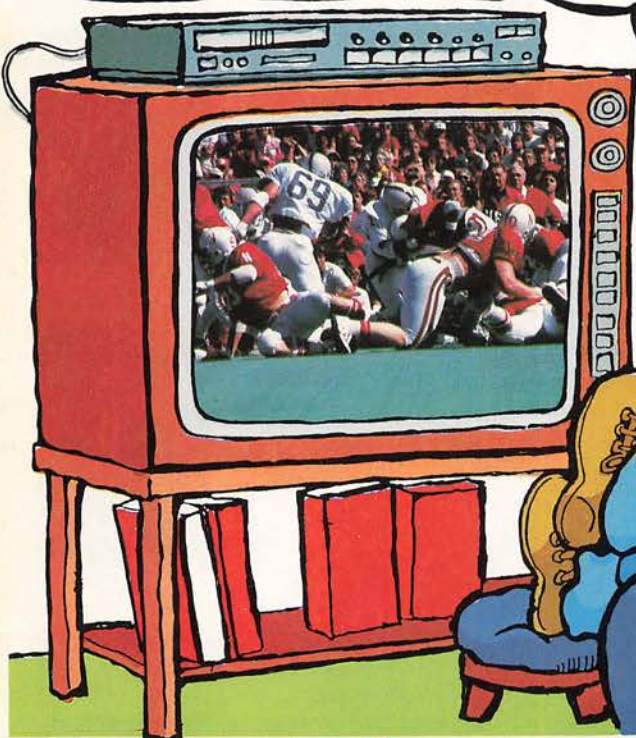
Q: As you were out recruiting this year, what was the talk about Proposition 48 and how it was going to affect the high school players? There wasn't nearly as much publicity about the academics as there was last year. Brian Cosmann, Casper, Wyoming

A: "That's right, and I think that's mainly due to the high school coaches and athletes making a good faith effort to look at their priorities. It's quite obvious the NCAA is serious about the role of college athletics and that the academic side must be treated as the priority it is. A young man who has to sit out a year because of Proposition 48 will generally find his athletic career set back quite a bit. If he's serious about playing sports then he needs to be just as serious about his grades as well. This doesn't mean you won't ever hear about players with grade problems any more, it's just that everyone knows what to expect now. It's going to take some hard work on the part of both players and coaches, but I think college football has definitely taken a pretty big step in the right direction."

If you have questions for Coach Osborne, please address them to Ask Tom Osborne, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501. ♦

Q: "Way to go on the great recruiting season. It seems like the players Nebraska signed were really superstars or at least that's the impression I get from the stories I've read which brings up my question. I've heard that college coaches a lot of times have to "unrecruit" their freshmen when they eventually get on

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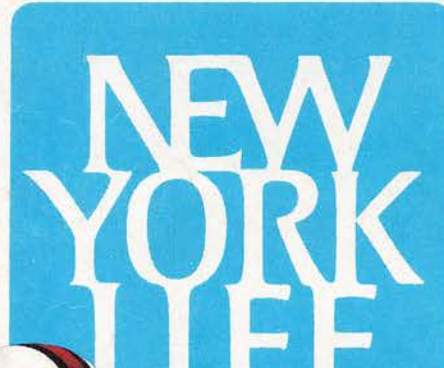
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